

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVIII

DENVER, COLORADO

Number 12



MAY 1937

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR



The advertisement pictured above appeared in full colors in national women's magazines having a total circulation of 13,465,279

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Swift & Company

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THE AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Introduction of Live Stock into Domain of U. S.

BY JOHN H. HATTON

THE FIRST SPANISH ADVENTURERS found neither horses nor cattle on the American continent. Both are exotics, as determined by modern history. But on the Western continent—miscalled the "New World"—lies the oldest of all land. The facts of geology and paleontology record the presence of primitive ruminants, undoubtedly the forerunners of our hollow-horned, present-day varieties. Therefore it has been aptly stated that the introduction of our domestic live-stock animals into America was no more than their homecoming to the land of their immensely remote, prehistoric, and extinct progenitors.

Columbus introduced the horse, the cow, the sheep, and the hog to the Western Hemisphere on his second voyage in 1493. In succeeding years, Spanish colonists and adventurers flocked to the West Indies. Nearly all vessels that carried these people from Spain had on board some live stock, but the ships were small and crowded, and each could accommodate but a small number of animals. Importations, added to the natural increase of preceding introductions, soon furnished the colonies with a fair supply of all except horses.

Live Stock Introduced in 1510

It was nearly eighteen years after the discovery voyage, or early in 1510, when live stock was introduced to the main continent. The animals were brought by two colonizing expeditions which sailed from Spain in the autumn of 1509, and, arriving at the City of San Domingo, Haiti, made some additions to the live stock they had brought from Spain. They were landed on the Gulf of Urabi, of the main continent. These first introductions were lost through Indian and other troubles.



Photo by author.

The Robert Hinnant steer at Hebronville, Texas, believed in 1927 to have been the best specimen of longhorn steer remaining in Texas.

It was a few years after this that horses, cattle, sheep, and swine were introduced for the first time on the mainland under conditions favorable to their multiplication. Natives, as in the case of the islanders of the West Indies, were alarmed at the appearance of these animals and were especially afraid of horses, which they took to be ravenous, unearthly monsters. The progenitors of the millions of Texas longhorns, which became the principal foundation of the western range industry, were some calves brought from San Domingo in 1521 by Gregoria Villalobos, a governor-

general sent to "New Spain" as ruler. They were swum ashore near Vera Cruz, Mexico, from some Spanish ships.

Range Industry Based on Longhorns

The swiftness of more recent change from what developed through more than 325 years out of those initial plantings is significant. Less than seventy years ago this hardy breed of cattle had pressed back the buffaloes and the Indians until almost the whole country from the Gulf to the Canadian border was theirs. They had spread from the Southland like a great fan over all the Great Plains region. The simple process of evolution, through the improved breeding of the past fifty years or more, and the rapid displacement by present types of cattle left almost forgotten and extinct those animals which were so closely joined, and, it may be said, were so vitally essential, to the earlier history and development of the great Southwest and the vast plains of the Mississippi Valley.

It is fitting that through the interest of the late Senator Kendrick, of Wyoming, who as a young man followed the longhorn "trail herds," a small appropriation was made by Congress in 1927 with which to establish on the Wichita National Forest and Game Preserve in southwestern Oklahoma* a small remnant of the old longhorn type. These animals, true to their prepotent characteristics, have multiplied. The offspring have been closely culled as to type, the genealogy of each individual is accurately kept and preserved in card records, new bulls have been introduced twice from old Mexico, and, after disposing of a number of scores of them since

*Area transferred to the U. S. Biological Survey, 1935.

their introduction to the Wichita area, there are now about 125 selected animals remaining. A number of the steers born on the Wichita have reached the age and type characteristics that would stir up many memories with stockmen still living and who were a part of that early live-stock period.

Thus a living and a fitting monument to the type and to one of the most colorful periods in our nation's live-stock history is preserved for future generations to see. The Texas longhorn is not to become literally extinct. The writer, together with the late Will C. Barnes, had the pleasant duty of selecting the little initial herd of twenty aged cows and three bulls. But in 1927, it required a search throughout the great State of Texas to find these few head true to type. "We never miss the water till the well runs dry" was almost literally exemplified when it came to the point of actually finding and assembling a small remnant of the old longhorn type.

English Begin Importations

It was more than a century after the Columbian discovery before the English established a foothold in the New World. In 1609, nine vessels were dispatched to Jamestown with 500 immigrants, with horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, all of which made themselves at home in the new country. Cattle multiplied rapidly, because the killing of them was made a serious offense. Sheep suffered the ravages of wolves and increased less rapidly. Hogs turned into the woods and did very well. From these the "razor-back" type descended. In a few years, the James River settlement had become fairly well supplied with live stock, although wolves continued to cause much trouble among the sheep.

The first general importation of live stock into Massachusetts from England was in 1624. The foremost stockman

among the pioneers was Henry Hope, who was said to have had ten cows—a possession which made him distinguished.

A few years later, cattle were imported to the English settlement direct from Holland, Denmark, and Sweden. In 1627, the Dutch made large importations of live stock from Holland, followed in a few years by large shiploads. In the settlement of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware by Danish, Swedish, and Finnish people, all were provided with horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. The Swedes introduced sheep into New Jersey in 1630. The first of William Penn's colonies was not established in Pennsylvania until 1681, but his people gave much attention to sheep, and within a few years made sheep-raising a special industry.

Mississippi Valley Attracts Thousands

Live stock were taken from Virginia to North Carolina, but they increased very slowly for many years. However, people from Carolina became the first permanent English settlers west of the Alleghenies, and in 1754 were the first English people to introduce cattle, horses, and swine into any part of the Mississippi Valley. After the termination, in 1763, of the war between the French and English in America, there was considerable movement of the people from eastern Pennsylvania and other adjacent points of the headwaters of the Ohio into the Mississippi Valley. It was established by Benjamin Franklin that five thousand families, averaging six persons to the family, had sought lands in that region by 1769, before the outbreak of the War for Independence. They took live stock with them into the new country.

As the French advanced up the St. Lawrence River and into the country of the Great Lakes, more or less of their live stock soon followed. Thus far the

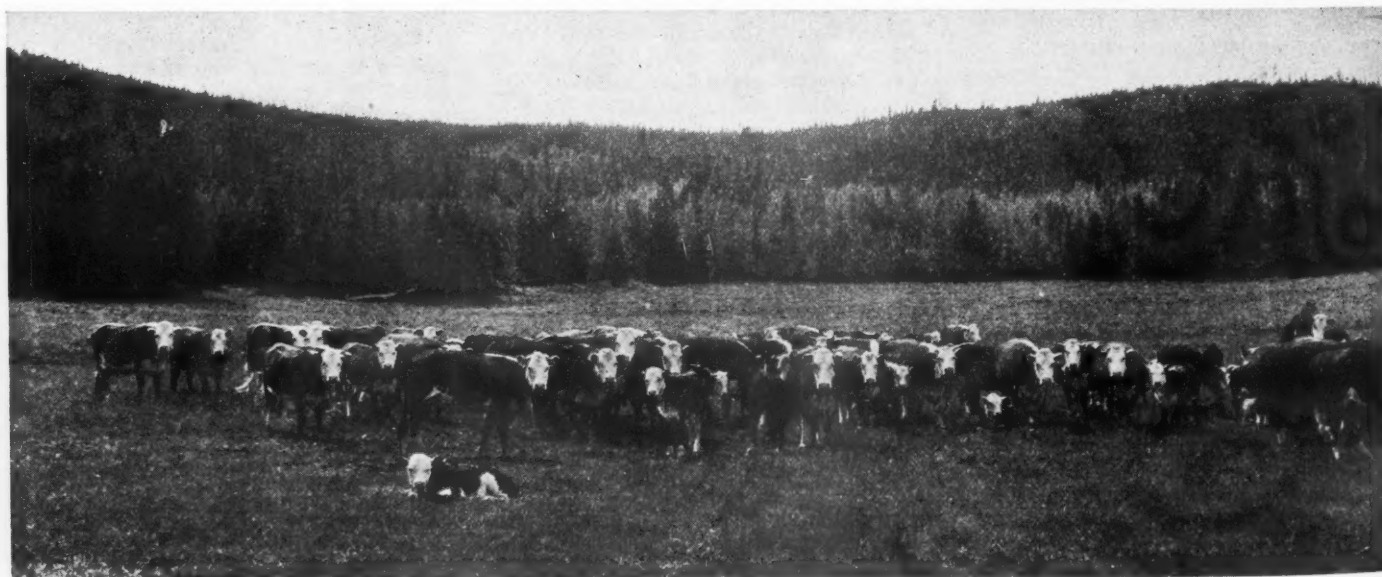
French were much advanced over the English and all other European people in settling the Mississippi Valley region. All of their settlements, either in the beginning or soon afterwards, had been provided with horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, with the exception of sheep on the Gulf coast.

Missionaries Develop Great Industry

In April, 1769, a party of Franciscan friars founded a mission at San Diego, from which dates the "mission era" in what was formerly Upper California. It was at these missions, which increased to twenty-one, that live stock was developed into a great industry, and their flocks and herds numbered into the thousands. Converted Indians took care of them. Indian shepherds and tillers of the soil received for their hire only food and the coarsest of raiment, thus making for a very small outlay in production. At the opening of the nineteenth century, each mission possessed from 40,000 to 60,000 head of cattle and almost as many sheep, and from 2,000 to 3,000 head of horses. For about sixty years after the founding of San Diego, these missionaries had absolute control of California—spiritual and temporal. They lived in patriarchal state and were said to be accountable to no one. Their wealth in live stock and from products of the soil was enormous.

The decline and downfall came swiftly. One of the early acts of the Republic of Mexico was to abolish the missions entirely and to deport the missionaries. Their great flocks and herds had disappeared before California became United States territory as a consequence of the war with Mexico.

In 1846, the legislature of Illinois revoked the charter of the Mormon settlement of Nauvoo, where these people had settled in 1840. In 1847, they crossed the "Great Desert" and the "mighty



Modern type of cattle grazing on the Roosevelt National Forest, Colorado.

mountains" to the Great Salt Lake in the wilderness of Utah. They carried with them everything to make them an independent community. They were the pioneer stock-raisers in the Utah basin.

It will be seen that the two principal sources from which the pioneer stock in this country was drawn were Spain and England. France, Holland, Denmark, and Sweden contributed only a minority of the earliest importations. From those small beginnings the live-stock industry extended over the United States from ocean to ocean and reached a magnitude that is said not to have been reached in any other country of the world.*

*In the assembling of part of the historical material for this article the writer wishes to acknowledge "Prose and Poetry of the Live-stock Industry," published in 1905 by the National Live Stock Historical Association. The volume is rare and almost precious—a most valuable live stock historical work. It was sponsored by the present American National Live Stock Association shortly after its organization, and embodies much painstaking research.

War on Bugs

MORMON CRICKET INFESTATION, AS INDICATED by egg surveys, will be the heaviest on record and the insects will attack at least 469,000 acres of grain crops in nine states, according to Frank Cowan, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

States open to infestation, he said, included Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The department will fight the pest with sodium arsenite from dust guns, \$300,000 for that purpose having been allocated from WPA funds.

Grasshoppers also may be a "definite menace" in ten middle western states, unless spring brings abnormally heavy rains, according to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. More than 81,000 tons of poison bait will be laid down against this pest—54,000 more than last year. This enemy, according to the secretary, may invade Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois.

Because the winter mortality of chinch bugs, so destructive to wheat and other small grains, has been reported as very low, federal forces have dug in for a determined battle against this insect in the Middle West.

These are only a few phases of the fight in which upwards of \$12,000,000 will be spent by the government to combat insects and plant diseases. The codling moth (destructive to orchards), the boll weevil (cotton's enemy), the corn-ear worm, the ground beetle, the Japanese beetle—literally hundreds of such pests—offer a constant challenge.

"The problem changes every year with changing weather, changing types of insects, and new diseases," says Secretary Wallace.

Always More Grass from Rain?

TO MOST STOCKMEN THERE IS only one answer to the question whether extra rainfall always makes more perennial grass. And those stockmen who say "yes" are right most of the time. But there are grasses in the semidesert Southwest and there may be rainy months in the year that combine in such a way as to make the answer to the question "no." At least this tentative conclusion is reached, says the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station,* based on a series of experiments conducted on the Santa Rita Experimental Range in Arizona.

It is common knowledge, of course, that the forage stand of the semidesert grassland ranges of the Southwest varies greatly from year to year. While this variation is undoubtedly due to a number of factors, it is generally assumed to be governed predominantly by moisture made available through rain—an assumption that is scarcely to be questioned. Not all of the rainfall, however, can contribute effectively to growth of the forage species. An appreciable proportion of the water from showers may run off quickly in certain seasons of the year when rainfall is intense; or, in other seasons, may evaporate directly from the soil in the face of dry winds or high temperatures; or the rain may be insufficient to saturate topsoils.

The objective of the series of experiments was to try to determine the responses of three important grasses (black grama, Rothrock's grama, and needlegrass or three-awn) to variations in the amount and distribution of seasonal rainfall. For the purpose, seven enclosures (small areas fenced and not grazed by cattle) were established—five in 1917 and two more in 1925. Within these enclosures, permanently marked plots 1 meter square were laid out and rain gauges installed near by. Every year, up through 1932, the total tuft area of the perennial grasses on each of these plots, and the height of the flower stalks of each plant, were carefully measured, and records maintained continuously of the date and amount of all rains. The mass of data thus collected over this long period was then subjected to the most searching and modern scientific methods of statistical analysis, a large amount of common sense thrown in, and the result was that every rain does not necessarily make tufts of grass grow bigger and higher.

It is certain that no reader who is not a supermathematician wants to know more about these scientific methods of analysis.** It is equally certain that readers will want to know the results after, and not before, the common sense was thrown in. Hence, here they are:

The first point everyone knows—the three grasses considered grow together

on the same area, and they are all influenced by rainfall. The question is how each is affected at different seasons of the year. The experiment showed that:

1. Each of the three grasses responds differently to rainfall distribution throughout the year. The two gramas respond in tuft and height growth to rains about the same, except that black grama lags behind Rothrock's grama about a month and is, moreover, less sensitive to variation in the winter and spring rainfall.

2. Variations in July rainfall have only little effect on the growth of the gramas the following year, but late summer rains benefit both the next year.

3. Above-average rainfall during the winter season does not necessarily aid either the stand or height growth of the gramas.

4. Extra spring precipitation, as everyone knows, is beneficial to the gramas, and this experiment proved this scientifically, but it went on to show that, if excess rainfall continues, the benefit becomes less and less until middle summer, when there is practically no benefit at all. No doubt the reason for the falling off or growth in tuft area in July of the two grama grasses is because more of the rain must be put into the flowers and seed instead of blade growth.

5. The response of tuft growth in three-awn to rainfall is quite different. Except during June and early July, extra rains during the preceding summer and fall have little effect on its density. But during the winter, additional rains become more and more beneficial, reaching the maximum in March. Then growth drops off, even with good rainfall, until it is little by June.

6. With respect to all three grasses, extra rainfall during the preceding fall and current spring and summer benefits the height growth during the summer, but coming during the winter it does not seem to be beneficial.

7. In general conclusion then, semidesert ranges that are made up of black grama and Rothrock's grama will be best when there are relatively "wet" falls and springs. Rainy or snow winters will not necessarily mean better grama grass. Rather the extra rainfall to be most helpful should come earlier or later. But three-awn grass is not vitally affected by alternating wet and dry weather. Variations from normal rainfall will help either the density or the height growth, but not both at once.

*Maintained at Tucson, Arizona, by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the University of Arizona, and covering Arizona, New Mexico, and Western Texas.

**The technical reader is referred to *Jour. Agr. Research*, Vol. 54, No. 2, "The Influence of Rainfall upon Tuft Area and Height Growth of Three Semidesert Range Grasses in Southern Arizona," Lister, Paul B. and Schumacher, Francis X.

Shipping Meat Animals Safely

WHY IS THERE AN AVERAGE loss of more than \$12,000,000 a year on live stock killed, crippled, or bruised in delivery from farm to packing plants in the United States? Why has this enormous waste been on the increase when the means are at hand to reduce it greatly?

These thought-provoking questions are asked in a booklet issued by the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board, which was organized in December, 1934, for the purpose of doing something about the appalling loss in live stock and live-stock products resulting from careless or inadequate handling and shipping of meat animals.

A third question, "What can be done to lessen this enormous waste?" is answered in the board's booklet, from which we extract the following:

Minerals in Feed

Preparations for safe marketing begin on the farm and in the feed-lot. A deficiency of minerals, particularly a lack of calcium in the ration, not only retards gains, but causes a weakness of bone structure. Such animals are more likely to be crippled in transit. Hogs fattened almost exclusively on corn, which has a low mineral content, frequently break down.

Tankage or milk, when fed in sufficient amounts to balance swine feeding rations properly, supplies all the calcium needed. The same is true when alfalfa or other legume hays are fed liberally to cattle, sheep, and horses. But if neither tankage nor milk is fed to swine, and if neither alfalfa nor other legume hays are fed to cattle, sheep, or horses, then these animals should have free access at all times to a mixture consisting of equal parts of powdered limestone, steamed bone meal, and salt.

Valuable information on the feeding and preparation of live stock for marketing may be secured from your county agricultural agent or from the extension service of your state agricultural college.

The health of animals is closely related to nutrition. Animals require vitamins, as well as certain minerals in proper proportions, in a balanced ration. A number of diseases are directly attributable to improper methods of feeding. If your animals are not thrifty, have your veterinarian inspect them for the possible presence of disease. It does not pay to ship animals that are not in good physical condition. Proper feeding methods and freedom from infectious and parasitic diseases are of primary importance in preparing animals for the market.

Water and Feed

Farm animals should have plenty of clean water accessible on the farm, but only a moderate supply of water should be given them immediately preceding

shipment. Cattle and sheep are not likely to eat more timothy or prairie hay than is good for them in transit, but too liberal a feeding of alfalfa is likely to cause scours and excessive urination. A very limited amount of grain, if any, should be fed preparatory to loading. Oats are lighter than corn, and at such a time can be fed with better results. Some advise that no grain be given to cattle and sheep just before shipment.

The vital organs of a fat hog are so enveloped and crowded by fat that the action of the heart and lungs is hampered to the point of suffocation by a gorged stomach. Accordingly, hogs should have not to exceed half the usual amount of grain 12 hours before loading.

Horns on cattle are objectionable in the feed-lot, and particularly so while in transit. One or more horned cattle in a truck or car can cause much disturbance, resulting in serious bruising. It is not an expensive process to saw off the horns of cattle intended for the feed-lots. Some prefer to prevent the growth of horns on calves a few days old by use of a caustic, or to remove them with clippers when the calves are a little older.

Truck Equipment

Improperly constructed trucks and trailers cause serious losses from bruising and crippling. Equipment of standard specifications should be used and demanded of commercial truckers by farmers. Many of the low, narrow, home-made outfits are hard to unload without injuring the animals.

Low upper decks, low cross-roads, and narrow, low end-gates cause many bruises and injuries to the backs and loins of cattle. When side-boards on the truck are spaced too far apart, animals are likely to get their legs through the openings, with costly injuries resulting.

Railroads have tariff regulations requiring partitions when different classes of live stock are loaded in the same car. Truckmen unfortunately do not have such requirements. Occasionally trucks are seen loaded with mixed live stock—cattle, hogs, calves, sheep, and even horses together without partitions. Some trucks are loaded to capacity with cattle, and then as many hogs, sheep, or calves as can be crowded under the cattle are forced into the truck. As a result, the smaller animals are trampled, kicked, and bruised by the larger animals in the load, especially on sharp turns and in going up and down steep hills.

In some special tests recently conducted, a lack of strong partitions in trucks hauling mixed loads was found to cause twice as many bruises as were found in unmixed truck loads of live stock handled under similar conditions.

It seems only logical that shippers of live stock who send such a valuable product to market by commercial truck-

men should be protected by legislation requiring standardized truck equipment, adequate partitions, proper footing and bedding, veterinary inspection, and sanitary regulations to prevent the spread of disease.

Much bruising and crippling of live stock is due to poor footing in trucks. An ideal floor is one that is cleated both ways and then covered with a half inch of sand. In cold weather plenty of straw bedding should be used.

Some truckers, after delivering live stock to market, haul merchandise back from the city. Their trucks should be so built that the floors and side-walls can be easily cleaned, and for this purpose a smooth surface is preferable. But such a floor without sand as bedding gives very poor footing.

Some trucks are equipped with cleated floors. These cleats are made in the form of eight-inch squares. The truck that hauls only live stock will have these cleats fastened permanently to the floor.

Some dual-purpose trucks have removable false bottoms, cleated in the form of squares. When the false bottom is removed, the floor can be easily cleaned.

In cold weather, canvas covers should be provided for trucks not roofed to hold the animal heat within. Canvas shades are desirable in extremely hot weather.

Every commercial truck should be equipped with a collapsible loading chute. When not in use the floor of the chute may be carried under the truck and the sides hung on the outside.

Many farmers have found that it pays to construct good stationary or movable chutes. Plans for building proper loading chutes for farm or truck can be obtained by writing the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board.

Load Carefully

Farm animals are naturally shy about going into strange places such as cars or trucks, and should not be hurried. Clubs and canes bruise them badly and occasionally a leg is broken by a hard blow. Pitchforks and other sharp implements should never be used.

Canvas slappers have such a wide surface that they seldom or never injure and are highly recommended. These may be secured at cost from the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board. Electric prod poles are now on the market at relatively low cost and are being used with satisfactory results.

Overcrowding of trucks is a most important cause of injury. In order to haul greater tonnage, trucks are too frequently overloaded. When the load is crowded, it is most difficult for an animal, once down, to regain its feet; trampling or suffocation results. Overcrowding increases shrinkage, bruising, and death losses alike, and is especially disastrous during hot weather.

The farmer should not risk his live

stock with a careless truck driver who displays impatience in loading and unloading by the use of clubs, end-gate rods, chains, or other such objects. Much damage is caused by sudden stops and fast driving on sharp curves. Farm animals are too valuable and too susceptible to injury to be turned over to incompetents.

There are many drivers who exercise great care and patience in handling live stock, and there are others who do not. Consideration should be given to the establishment of some sort of a license system that will help to eliminate irresponsible drivers.

Care should be taken to back the truck squarely against the unloading chute to avoid leaving any space between truck and platform. Hogs especially are very cautious and should be given time to move rather than be forced. Do not prod or strike viciously with clubs or canes.

In unloading hogs from the lower floor of a double-deck truck, poke lightly about the head from in front of the truck rather than attempt to prod them from within the truck. A sorting pole with a short stubby brush, or a broom, is excellent for this purpose.

Inclines should be provided for unloading from upper decks. Farm animals forced to jump to the truck floor, or pulled from the upper deck and allowed to drop, are often severely bruised or crippled by "spreading" and breaking bones. These injuries cause hemorrhages in the joints and result in a large money loss.

Recommendations for safe shipment by rail will be given in a second article. The address of the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Association is 700 Exchange Building, Union Stock Yards, Chicago.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—A second article on how to ship meat animals will appear in an early issue.

Wheat Acreage Estimates

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE reported on April 10 winter wheat condition as of April 1 as 73.8 per cent of normal, indicating production of 656,019,000 bushels. Present conditions indicated that yield per acre will be below average generally except in the far Southwest. The estimated production was 137,000,000 bushels in excess of last year, however.

Condition of winter wheat was approximately five points above that of April 1, 1936, but equally as much below the 1923-32 average. Winter wheat production last year totaled 519,013,000 bushels. Condition of rye was 71.4 per cent of normal.

The department reported 411,980,000 bushels of corn on farms on April 1. There were 71,723,000 bushels of wheat and 287,745,000 bushels of oats on farms April 1.

Browsing Around Mexico

BY ALLTON TURNER

[Reprinted, by permission, from the "Western Livestock Journal."]

ALL YOU OLD COWMEN KNOW there are dozens of different ways to work cattle. Most of you know that cattle are handled differently in Arizona than they are in Texas, or in Wyoming. You know that California buckaroos "dally" and that Texas cowpokes tie hard and fast. I know all that, too, from having "disturbed live stock" in lots of those places. But, down here in central Mexico is the first place I ever saw where they herded cattle just like United States herd sheep.

Reckon the best reason for this herding is the lack of fences; then, again, maybe it's because of distrust of their neighbors.

Whatever the reason is, I haven't seen a steer (and they're all big steers—nothing being sold until it's grown) that wasn't attended by at least one herder. Some of these old big steers are hobbled and pretty mansito and some of them snake around through the thick underbrush like a scared jack rabbit.

Machete Indispensable

And right there is the reason for the inevitable machete. This heavy, long knife is carried in a scabbard near the left knee, buckled or tied where the swell of the saddle would be—if the saddle weren't a Mexican, swell-less, liningless tree that it is.

This machete is apparently as indispensable as the 60-foot maguay. (Have any of you tie-hard men ever tried using the Mexican maguay? Makes a feller wonder how these vaqueros can handle three- to ten-year-old steers without breaking the blamed twine every time they whip it onto somethin').

Right here is something I can't quite understand. Even though the underbrush seems thicker in this part of Mexico (San Luis Potosi and Nuevo Leon) than over west of here in the state of Chihuahua, and these jinetes must carry machetes to cut through the brush, I've seen breast protectors for horses over in Chihuahua and not over here. Maybe some informed and experienced kind-hearted old ranny will enlighten me.

Breast Protectors

In case some of you have never seen breast protectors for horses, I'll try to explain. Remember back in school when we read about dueling knights of King Arthur's time? Those riders had iron or steel plates to cover their horses' breasts. Anyway, these pecheras are made from heavy rawhide and protect a pony's chest from clutching thorns of a thousand different kinds of cactus. The durn things run plumb down to the pony's knees, too.

What few fences there are in this country are either made of rock—built into walls for, perhaps, miles and miles—or some kind of cactus planted where the division is wanted. Maguay, ocotillo, organ cactus, and giant prickly pear are some of the plants used for fence building. And, instead of piling their corn in barns—if they had any barns—these Mexicans merely shock the corn pretty well in the center of their fields and throw a pile of cactus around it. The corn has been shocked for a couple of months now and there's no sign of any of the thousands of burros or goats having gotten a bite.

Unless you look very closely you won't see the little ranchos nearby. The houses, usually adobe with thatched roofs, are well concealed in thickets of tall cactus—probably prickly pear. They may be placed thus for protection from ravages of weather, but one (perhaps a romantic) would rather suppose it is to safeguard themselves from banditos.

Nothing Runs Loose

And, for some reason or other, the entire mobile wealth of these rancheros is guarded day and night. It is not an uncommon sight to see cattle, goats, turkeys, and burros thrown into one herd to be grazed over the wandering hillsides or watered at sparsely situated watering places. If the ranchero is fortunate enough to have a few horses, these too, are thrown in with the common herd. For, nothing runs loose to graze at will as we do in the States.

Mentioning burros returns to mind the question of what Mexico would have done without them. They are packed, ridden, driven, and even eaten.

It is nothing to see a 500-pound burro carrying a load of 400 pounds. (California law is 150 pounds to the mule and expediency in the States decrees not more than 250 pounds). Here, in Mexico, more often than not, a peon will put a good enough load on his little burro, then climb on top of the whole thing himself. It might be said that Mexico, itself, moves on burros.

Naturally, a great deal of Mexico along the new highway is more civilized (even Americanized), but where I'm writing this from, 200 miles from the highway, there hasn't been much change. What little change there has been in this "land of manana" has been brought about by Americans—*los Americanos del norte y el camino*—and The Road, or highway, to Mexico City.

"I find lots of valuable reading in THE PRODUCER. I have been getting it now for a number of years, and this fact tells how much I like it."—J. M. ALLISON, Australia.

Beef Tonnage Prospect Slim

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CLOSELY ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS ARE summer beef supply and fall stock-cattle replacement. During the ensuing six months there will be enough beef to go around at prices consumers must pay. Never before has the tonnage prospect been so slim, and the trade has been through several periods of acute scarcity. At the inception of May, killers had reason to realize that they had run into a crop of near-beef, that for six months at least their picking would be difficult, and that from no known domestic source could the national larder be constantly replenished with a seasonally normal volume of product. Coincidentally the fact was realized that, until concentrated feeds are available at reasonable prices, resumption of beef-making will be seriously curtailed. In other words, current fat-cattle supplies are in no sense permanent, and, until the beef-making operation can be reinitiated on a scale of magnitude, the beef-rail will not display its customary beef offering. Before moderate plenitude can be restored, factors that insure a steady supply must be operative. It is obvious that what does not go in cannot emerge. Beef-making all over the Corn Belt and elsewhere is in a state of partial suspension, awaiting development of stimulating influences.

Fall Feeders Liquidated

Liquidation of the crop that went on feed last fall has all but run its course; yearlings, both steers and heifers, are trooping toward the cooler, and every pound of product is passing into distributive channels as rapidly as it can be processed. Each passing week at every market, concentration point, or crossroads auction plot where cattle change hands, buyers are on the alert for anything—bargains or whatever else is available. Killers' agents are riding the country night and day as never before, following long trails leading to spots where a few animals of the bovine species may be located. Every feed-lot in the country has formed a spot on the map on which these trails are traceable. Each month, when federal statistics concerning cattle slaughter are posted, the discrepancy between receipts at the markets and the number slaughtered becomes apparent. These statistics are susceptible of explanation, however, as they register a premature trek to the innumerable places where cattle are transformed into beef, for which advancing cost of feed is mainly responsible. Feeders, who endeavored to nurse an invalid market last year, took the other course on this occasion; the great bulk of the cattle have gone, and, until such raw materials as the beef-maker needs are available at prices that look safe,

reinstatement is unlikely if not impossible.

Continued High Market Indicated

Fat-cattle market performance since the turn of the year has not elicited criticism, but during April a stalemate developed. Word was passed that cattle were "high enough." Harassed buyers resorted to bear raiding whenever a weak spot was detected, and, without keen competition at the markets and elsewhere, a price structure erected on less secure ground would have collapsed; as it was, every breach was restored, and, despite eccentricity inseparable from high prices, recovery was prompt. This indicates a continued high market all summer, not only for finished steers, but everything wearing a hide that is susceptible of immediate conversion into edible product. No cheap beef, in the sense that it was cheap last year, is possible. Consumers apparently sense this fact, as no violent, or even audible, protest has been heard. There is no accumulation, week-end or otherwise, as the stock of meat in packers' storage is merely a provision against scarcity during the between-hog-and-grass season; thereafter it will disappear. With eastern winter-fed cattle out of the way, Ohio's seasonal production of yearlings in the cooler, and a weekly toll levied on what is popularly known as "baby" beef in the Corn Belt, the position of the cattle feeder is impregnable for several months to come.

Big Steers May Disappear

Nobody in the business is likely to be deceived by a few loads of steers realizing anywhere from \$15.50 to \$16.50 per cwt. or as much higher as scarcity exigencies may send them. In one respect summer fat-steer trade will be unique, as there will at all times be few of the type of bullocks selling anywhere from \$13 to the top, regardless of what they weigh. Feed scarcity invariably puts a premium on heavy bullocks, but on this occasion that rule has been violated, yearlings in the 1,000- to 1,100-pound class scoring at, or close to, top prices. If essential quality and condition mean descent in weight, beef distributors must meet new conditions. In any event, big steers, dominating the market last year, are due to disappear, unless feeders undertake the dubious job of carrying them into weight and age in the feed-lot, as the commercial breeder is no longer in that mood, production economy forcing him to go on a calf and yearling basis. The last excessive supply of heavy cattle was made in 1936; in all probability it will never be duplicated.

Strong Fat-Cattle Market

Fat-cattle markets may not show further appreciation, but there is no in-

dication of weakness. Weight reduction has centered demand on light cattle; otherwise the big steer would get out of line. To correct this tendency, inseparable from high prices, killers are changing their policy from day to day without marked success, as whenever a type of cattle looks cheaper, based on dressed cost, than another, a rush ensues. There will be a few long-fed steers with quality right along, and they will be prize packages. The rank and file of the summer run will be merely warmed-up or straight grassers, now selling anywhere from \$9.50 to \$12 per cwt. No cattle have been turned from feed-lots into pasture this season because of lack of market reception, and such steers as go on pasture will either be carried along until new corn is ready or marketed off grass. Feeders are bragging on economy in the use of corn, and will continue that course. The summer of 1937 will record a new chapter in cattle trade history for enforced economy in making gains and mediocrity, if not inferiority, of the resultant product.

Bulk of the visible supply of fat cattle early in May was in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Receipts at the entire chain of Missouri River markets, both with respect to numbers and condition, told the story of feed shortage for which precedent is lacking. Even in Chicago territory, where at least half a normal corn crop was picked last year, few steers sufficiently conditioned to beat \$13 were found, when the top was endeavoring to score at \$17—an objective that will be reached in May, unless all signs fail. Increasing scarcity of weight—1,300 pounds up—insures light cattle a broad market all summer, as three carcasses will be needed to furnish the same poundage as two last year, when overdone bullocks were the rule. A significant phase of this year's trade is urgent demand for featherweights—good, bad, or indifferent—at prices ranging from \$8.50 to \$15 per cwt., according to quality and condition. All is grist that comes to the mill and every pound of beef, regardless of its origin, is welcome during a period of stress.

Yearlings Popular

Yearlings are popular cattle—so popular, in fact, that they respond to the vociferous bidding of killers, always in need of raw material. Instead of following the usual practice of marketing heifers earlier than steers, both sexes are moving simultaneously, thousands of these little cattle selling mixed at prices ranging from \$10 to \$14 per cwt. Naturally, heavy heifers, 900 to 1,000 pounds, are enjoying a premium; but light heifers, 750 to 900 pounds, are finding a \$10 to \$12.25 market. Finished little cattle—calves that went into feeders' hands last fall—wintered well and will go over stock-yard scales early, as prices are remunerative and

board bills high. Thousands of little cattle that ordinarily would have been fed out on grass during the summer are already in or on their way. There is no possibility of the spectacular showing of this type of beef made last summer and fall. A heavy poundage of light beef is absorbed constantly by urban consumers, with whom it is popular by reason of the purchase money involved. This is demonstrated by a constant scramble for "snipes," "peccaries," "yellow-hammers," and other varieties of common stock on which the keenest competition centers.

Cow Beef Scarce

Impelled by the spring rise of grass, feeders have frequently attempted competition with killers on what are known as "two-way" cattle. All over the Corn Belt, lush pastures have been insured by what amounts to an excess of moisture in many sections, utilization of this pasture being a serious problem. If corn were available many farmer feeders would run steers on grass during the summer, feeding a light corn ration; but, between competition for cattle and inability to secure corn, this operation is not promising. A few fleshy steers are going to the country at prices ranging from \$9 to \$10.50 per cwt. when opportunity to grab them away from killers offers. Beef trade is actually borrowing on what under normal feed conditions would be its summer and fall supply of raw material. With scant replacement, premature cashing of yearlings, and ransacking of every nook and cranny of the country for anything convertible into beef, the immediate future of prices is not open to suspicion. Cow beef is scarce—a fact responsible for switching to low-cost steers. Fat cows are worth \$8.50 to \$10 per cwt.; the general run of "dairies," \$6.50 to \$7.50; and low-grade cows, known as cannors and cutters, \$4.25 to \$6 per cwt. What has become of the female cattle that formerly filled the market hopper is a mystery. Prosecution in recent years of disease eradication campaigns in the dairy areas has been one cause, the residue being absorbed by local consumption over the hinterland where steer beef is the exception.

In this emergency, consumers are buying edible offal to get away from advancing beef cost; sausage is steadily acquiring popularity, and the electric meat grinder, with which every market is equipped, reduces coarse cuts to edible condition, regardless of texture. Beef rounds, formerly a difficult selling proposition, emerge from the mechanical masticator in edible condition. Rumps, plates, briskets, neck meat, and other portions of the carcass are readily salable, and what meat the viscera affords goes over the retailer's counter with celerity. Machines for "cubing" and otherwise making coarse meats attractive have been added to

shop equipment. Nevertheless, the average meat retailer is traveling a thorny path, faced by increasing rents, labor exactions, and soaring overhead. Meat-store chains are succumbing to this stress, financially yielding to chains carrying other lines of merchandise. A considerable percentage of the meat handled by these chains is utilized for "leader" sales to attract other business.

Corn Crop Prospects Encouraging

Prospects for the new corn crop are encouraging, at least east of the Missouri River, where a large acreage will be planted. Spring moisture has been excessive in some localities, making plowing difficult. However, the acreage will be large, and, although the crop is a gamble from the day it is planted until cribbed, necessity will insure attention all through the growing and maturing season. In many parts of Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana corn has disappeared, at least as a commercial commodity. Foresighted feeders have acquired enough to carry them through, but advancing prices have prompted them to short-route cattle, selling corn at the highest prices since the European war. Government allotments will curtail corn acreage to some extent, but this will be more than made up by soy beans and other feeds. The federal erosion plan is creating a considerable acreage in grass that may be utilized for pasturing live stock, and, in any event, the land capable of maximum corn production will be utilized for that crop.

Assuming that corn cribs are filled, pastures reinstated, and vast quantities of other feeds stored next fall, broad demand for replacement cattle will be inevitable—in fact, anticipated. Although feeders are not deceived by high prices a few finished bullocks are realizing, the history of the business has been that, following a period of remunerative fat-cattle prices, the in-and-out element clamors for stockers. What buyers will be willing to pay depends on the price of corn at that stage, plus availability of other feeds. On a normal corn crop, the present price of that grain could easily be cut in two, and it is doubtful if a government "peg" by the loan method would be inserted above that figure. Speculation concerning the outcome of the corn crop or its possible value is futile at this juncture, but the stocker market will be determined largely by developments meanwhile. Even with corn worth anywhere from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per bushel over a large section of the Belt, feeders are buying thin cattle at prices ranging from \$7 to \$9.50 per cwt., practically the entire purchase being intended for summer grazing to go on full feed next fall. The government is paying substantial rentals for land converted into pasture, this money being available for cattle purchasing, as grass can be used for beef-making.

Reduced Grass-Beef Tonnage

When western cattle reach the gathering stage, that portion in beef condition will get a warm reception from killers, who are likely to find themselves in competition with feeders, as fleshy grass steers may be thrown on pasture during August and September to make cheap gains and go on new corn in October. In a competition of that nature, killers will have the casting vote. That the season's grass-beef tonnage will be substantially reduced, compared with recent years, is a certainty, as liquidation, after running a course of several dry years, culminated in the generous gathering of 1936. What feeders will pay for fleshy steers depends wholly on what the fat-cattle market does this side of September if present beef consumption is maintained. There is no reason for apprehension that present quotations will be cut. Steers, for which killers are now paying anywhere from \$9 to \$10 per cwt., have nothing to recommend them but a few weeks on corn, lacking the dressing capacity of fat western grassers. All that is needed for a high stocker market is a corn crop sufficient to attract farmer feeders into the market, which will be spread all over the country the moment interest revives.

Obviously no "inventory" of the bovine population of the country is possible—only estimates are available—but after a long period of devastating drought, serious reductions cannot be disputed, especially in the Great Plains area, where an attempt at replenishment is being made this season by purchasing stockers in Texas and other sections of the Southwest. Rebuilding the industry in the drought-ravaged area will require several years, even with favorable physical conditions. Breeding herds have disappeared over large areas, between drought and financial stress, necessitating starting from the initial stage. In the Rocky Mountain section the industry has gone definitely on a cow, calf, and yearling basis—aged steers are practically out of the reckoning—and as feeders will readily absorb all the calves and yearlings offered, provided feed is available, slow progress with the rehabilitation campaign is certain. Commercial breeding east of the Missouri River on a scale of magnitude, or even sufficient to supply a small percentage of feeder needs, is impossible, as the initial movement is heavy and the process expensive. Instead of increasing in consequence of the western drought, the native beef-cattle industry has dwindled to insignificant volume, bulk of the steers coming from that quarter being nondescript reds with an admixture of indifferent whitefaces and an occasional load of choice Angus, the product of purebreds.

Breeders in Strong Position

Naturally considerable difference of
(Continued on page 22, under "Markets")

The Problem of Yellow Beef Fat

BY PROF. H. R. GUILBERT

University of California, Davis, California

[An address before the twentieth annual convention of the California Cattlemen's Association, December 12, 1936, at San Francisco. Reprinted from the "California Cattleman."]

THE PROBLEM OF YELLOW beef fat from a scientific point of view perhaps is not much of a problem. The facts are more or less clear, and from the standpoint of actual effect of color on quality we can say it is not a direct cause of poor quality meat. We do have a problem, however, because we are involved with human nature. The origin of the prejudice against yellow fat in beef seems somewhat obscure. At least a cursory review of the literature does not reveal whether this prejudice is of ancient or of comparatively recent origin. I saw reference to it in a book by George Culley, which was published in 1807. He refers to the high color of fat in Alderney cattle, now known as Guernsey cattle. He speaks of it in a way that implies that the yellow color was not in favor; and yet he says that the flesh of these animals at that time was of fine texture and flavor. Although he implies a prejudice against yellow color something over 100 years ago, he does indicate that even then it had no direct connection with quality.

It appears, therefore, that we are dealing with an idea that has been widely accepted and entrenched by time. Under such circumstances it is well to proceed with caution, because most of these generally accepted ideas have some basis of fact behind them.

Since we have inherited much of our animal husbandry fact and tradition from the English, we may logically assume this prejudice has come from the roast beef of old England. Their fattening rations were commonly composed of roots, straw, and oil cake—feeds low in carotene—so that there, as in this country, the better finished beef as a rule coincidentally had white fat.

Prejudice of Long Standing

There is no doubt that we are dealing with a prejudice of long standing, even though serious economic effects apparently have been felt by California range producers only in the last few years.

Practically every book, score card, or pamphlet on the subject of meat, including those of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, home economics textbooks, and the bulletins of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics describing the grades of beef, all carry more or less arbitrary statements that yellow color is indicative of poor quality and

that white fat is indicative of good quality.

True, occasional voices have been raised in question of the validity of this prejudice. Palmer, working at the Missouri experiment station in 1914, was the first to show that the yellow color in beef fat was carotene, and how it was derived from plants. He stated at that time that the color should not affect the quality of beef.

Wallace, in his book, *Farm Live Stock in Great Britain*, discusses Jersey and Guernsey meat and refers to the prejudice against it because of yellow fat. He remarks that it would be strange indeed if this natural animal coloring matter so highly prized in milk would be a genuine objection in quality meat. He further mentions that yellow carcasses of chilled beef from America were sent to Guernsey Island, where yellow color was not objectionable but, on the contrary, appreciated.

The Swiss animal husbandman, Duerst, in his book *Grundlagen der Rinderzucht*, refers to the public demand for "roast beef color" in England and says, regarding yellow fat, "*ist nicht so gerne nimmt*" (is not so well taken). He also states that yellow color is used as an indicator of age, and states, as we have, that it is only indirect.

Doubtless most of you have read the article on factors affecting the color of beef fat that was published in the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER [July, 1936, issue] and the *California Cattleman*. We therefore need only briefly review the basic facts.

Cause of Yellow Color

Yellow color of beef fat is caused by the deposition of carotene—the yellow pigment of carrots and one of the yellow pigments in all green plant tissue.

This carotene is not only the source of the vitamin A, so essential to sight, normal well-being, and reproduction in cattle, but also is a source of vitamin A for human nutrition.

Carotene is derived by cattle solely from plant sources, and the color of fat is directly proportional to its carotene content. The amount that accumulates in the fat depends on the carotene content of the feed, on hereditary limitation of storage, and on the age of the animal.

Feed Dominant Factor

Feed is ordinarily the most dominant factor concerned. Individual animals vary in the amount of carotene deposited under similar feed conditions. A common example of this is the high color in the butter fat and body fat of Jersey and Guernsey cattle.

Storage of pigment under favorable conditions increases with the age of the animal. If, however, we take old, thin cows and fatten them on a ration low in carotene, such as cottonseed hulls and meal, beet pulp, grain, hay, and cottonseed cake, or other feeds low in carotene, they will have white fat. One could not say in this case that the animals were young because they did not have yellow fat. Even Jerseys have been produced at the University Farm that had pure white body fat and butter fat. On the other hand, one- to two-year-old animals fed on pasture or well-cured hay and concentrates may have yellow fat. We recently sent some to the San Francisco market that killed yellow, and have had some good enough to win at Chicago that also killed yellow. It is possible to get yellow color on the highest quality reasonable young animals.

The inference is generally made that yellow fat is soft and white fat is hard. Now, we cannot say that this is not generally true. We do not have enough data to do that. We have, however, serious doubts concerning it. We found the yellow fat of a number of alfalfa-pasture fattened Imperial Valley cows to be just as hard as the white fat of steers fattened on cottonseed hulls and meal.

Color Overstressed

We must frankly admit in the general run of cattle coming on the market there is a relation between high color and lower quality, even though the relation is incidental. The difficulty lies in attributing undue importance to this color and treating it as though it actually caused poor quality. The present trend to restrict grain production and to stimulate the production of pasture and soil conserving crops, coupled with increased knowledge of preserving the full value of cured forage, are all factors that tend toward production of increasing numbers of yellow carcasses. The adoption of definite systems of supplementary feeding and full feeding of concentrates on grass have proved to be most economical procedures that result in really high-quality beef but beef that is liable to kill yellow. Thus, important groups of producers that can take advantage of most economical methods to produce high-quality beef may be penalized for the production of yellow carcasses. This undoubtedly would also react unfavorably on the consumer; for if the demand is for white fat, very frequently more expensive methods must be resorted to, and ultimately the beef cost to the consumer is higher.

William Schneider, of the Federal State Market News Service, has told me in regard to meat grading that color alone would not ordinarily count off sufficient points to change the carcass grade from, say, choice to good, or from good to medium. We have stated, and

still believe, that all carcasses could be placed in their proper grade without reference to color at all. The question has been asked: "How can we judge age without reference to color? But I do not consider that color is an accurate indication of age at all, because of the very important influence of feed. The color and condition of bones is a much better indicator of the age of the animal. No trouble is encountered in grading lamb, mutton, or hog carcasses, the fat of which is white, regardless of feeding or of age.

Prejudice Exists

Packers would no doubt be in difficulty, however, if they sent beef that was really choice but having yellow fat to the chef of the Palace Hotel or to other high-class hotels and restaurants. The prejudice exists, and we have to admit it. Let us picture what goes on in the meat coolers. If there are few cattle on hand and it is a sellers' market, the beef salesman may be able to stand pat on his price and get the same price for equal quality whether the fat is white or yellow. But if the coolers are loaded with beef, the buyer has the advantage. The beef salesman may not be able to say: "Well, this is the price, take it or leave it." He is afraid the buyer may walk out and buy elsewhere. He may have to shave the price a little and may cut on the yellow carcasses because there is one more thing about them that the buyer can object to. The same thing is reflected back in the country in the buying of your cattle. In other words, it becomes a trading point.

When we come to federal grading, it has been argued that graders would have to consider color of fat because if two carcasses, one white and the other yellow, were both marked "good," the yellow would have to sell at a lower price. I believe that if the average housewife found she could get the same quality at a lower price when it had yellow fat, the demand would increase to the point that any price differential would be eliminated automatically. The hotel and restaurant trade may present a different problem.

We cannot change tradition overnight, and probably it is fortunate that we cannot. Too many mistakes would be made. We can, however, recommend:

Recommendations

First, a presentation of the basic facts regarding color of fat in place of arbitrary statements now printed and taught, and wide distribution of this information.

Second, we can recommend a minimizing or eliminating of color of fat as a factor determining grade in federal grading of beef, particularly if compulsory beef grading is put into effect.

The efforts of your secretary, John Curry, and those of Hub Russell, C. C. Tannehill, and others in the association

have secured wide publicity in this matter in all phases of the industry and in the public press throughout the country. This has resulted in a good deal of constructive comment and thought on the subject. Mr. Phelps, your western representative of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, has been instrumental in having a true picture presented in the cooking schools and meat demonstrations conducted on the Pacific coast. Colonel Wentworth has summarized this information in Armour's monthly magazine. F. M. Simpson, of Swift and Company, has given this question consideration and has corresponded with your secretary regarding the subject. Safeway Stores and other groups have given the matter serious consideration.

Change of any kind always involves difficulties in readjustment. Cattlemen must recognize that color fat is not the only problem with which they are faced with regard to satisfactory sale of their beef, and a proper perspective must be maintained. California cattlemen have yet much to accomplish in breeding for quality, conformation, and feeding efficiency and in more general adaptation to their ranches of economical systems of supplementary and other feeding and management practice, so that beef of the age, weight, quality, and finish demanded is presented to the market throughout the year. In so doing you are going to help the color of fat to a considerable extent by marketing at younger ages.

The cattle that come to market just at the end of the green grass season usually have the highest fat color. A significant decrease in color occurs in a few weeks on dry feed, providing the cattle continue to gain. If supplemental feeding is begun as the grass dries and a rapid gain is maintained, it will tend to change the fat color faster by reason of stimulating the use of the stored carotene and by diluting the color with additional white fat produced from the dry forage and concentrated supplements that are low in carotene. This practice also increases the finish and dressing percentage of the cattle. If, on the other hand, cattle do poorly and are shrinking, the fat color may actually be increased temporarily, even on dry feed, because the animals may use body fat for their own requirements faster than the carotene is needed, with the result that the concentration of pigment increases. While you cannot expect to change yellow fat to pure white fat in a short time, the practice suggested should materially help the situation and has further advantage in economical production of better finished beef.

I believe this matter of yellow fat will eventually be worked out satisfactorily. At least, we do not at present contemplate attempting to discover quick methods of producing vitamin-A-deficient beef because of whims of fancy, prejudice, or tradition, while at the same time

working on practical methods of producing vitamin-rich milk, butter, and other products for human consumption.

Utah Cowmen in Convention

LIMITATION OF BIG-GAME ANIMALS ON Utah ranges, weed eradication, curtailment of cattle thefts, and retention of the long-and-short-haul interstate commerce regulations were sought in resolutions passed by the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, at its convention held in Salt Lake City, April 5-6.

Other resolutions adopted included opposition to the Argentine sanitary convention, one urging an increase in the tariff on canned meats and hides, and a third opposing further withdrawal of public lands for national monuments, parks, or for Indian reservations.

J. M. Macfarlane, president of the association, urged a concerted fight during 1937 against the problems besetting the industry—against unjust marketing restrictions and unjust railroad rates; against overvaluation of cattle for tax purposes; against overgrazing, particularly on state lands; and against the growing frequency of cattle thefts.

Stockmen must organize against the big-game menace, Lawrence E. Nelson, state senator, told the group. Dr. A. M. Woodbury, of the University of Utah, also spoke of the wild life as related to the live-stock industry.

F. R. Carpenter, director of the Taylor Grazing Act, describing progress in the administration of the act during the past two years, declared that 676 district advisers are now attempting to make a practical application of the law after a period of preliminary work and education.

Greetings from Idaho were extended by Max Cohn, president of the Idaho State Cattle and Horse Growers' Association, who spoke briefly. E. J. Maynard, Billings, Montana, formerly of the Utah State Agricultural College, pointed out industry benefits to be obtained from the Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, to be held on June 8-10 at North Salt Lake. The federal government range conservation program was outlined by Harry Petrie, Denver, in charge of the cattle and sheep division of the AAA. Dr. W. H. Hendricks, state veterinarian, discussed the control of contagious diseases.

Other speakers were J. A. Scorup, of Provo, first vice-president of the association; H. W. Dunn, Ogden horse dealer; W. H. Thain, legislative committee chairman; F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Live Stock Association; Ray E. Macfarlane, of Salt Lake City, meat packer; John T. Caine III, Chicago, of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company; Reed W. Bailey, director of research work for national

forests; R. H. Rutledge, forester; David F. Smith, commissioner of agriculture; and Fred Merrill, representing the national food chains.

Among other action taken was a resolution registering accord with the McCarran bill, which would make it a federal offense to move stolen cattle across a state line.

The cattlemen urged the state land board to co-operate in the utilizing of state lands to best advantage, so they might become of greater grazing value to the industry and more revenues be derived from their use. They requested the Forest Service to devise means of protecting stock while grazing on forest lands—a measure designed to insure protection against thievery.

Other resolutions favored: Construction and maintenance of stock drive-ways off the highway; a policy that would curb overgrazing; offering a reward of \$100 for evidence leading to conviction of anyone stealing cattle or horses in the state; and prosecution of thieves and trespassers who have damaged water developments.

Resolutions were passed endorsing the American National Live Stock Association and pledging financial support to it, and commending work of National Live Stock and Meat Board.

J. M. Macfarlane, Salt Lake City, was re-elected president. Other officers, all re-elected, are: J. A. Scorup, Provo, first vice-president; L. C. Montgomery, Heber City; Joseph T. Finlinson, Leamington, and R. A. Meeks, Bicknell, second vice-presidents.

Chamber of Commerce Meets

RESOLUTIONS FAVORING REDUCTIONS IN federal expenditures, reasonable tariff protection for domestic agriculture, adherence to a policy of borrower control of federal land banks, the principle of farm tenancy, and labor laws that operate to the mutual advantage of employer and employees were presented at the convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at its twenty-fifth anniversary meeting, held in Washington, D. C., on April 26-29.

Other resolutions favored transportation regulation as to rates, service, and safety, but "avoiding interference with management;" opposed "any effort by other branches of government to minimize the power or diminish the jurisdiction or limit the method of decision of the Supreme Court;" urged "allowances not now permissible for losses and reasonable reserves" in corporate surtax; asked that social security law be amended "to retain the special taxes on employers and employees to the initial rate of 1 per cent each for at least ten years;" requested modification of anti-trust laws "to make clear legality of agreements increasing the possibilities

of keeping production in proper relation to consumption."

A resolution endorsing the Argentine sanitary convention was considered, but no action was recommended. C. J. Abbott, Hyannis, Nebraska, a member of the Legislative Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, sitting in with the committee on resolutions, led the fight that killed the proposal.

The retiring president, Harper Sibley, of Rochester, New York, turned the leadership over to George Davis, of Kansas City, grain dealer. Both of these men are members of the American National.

Live-Stock Meetings

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COCHISE-Graham Cattle Growers' Association, held at Douglas, Arizona, April 24, attracted more than 150 cattlemen. Officers elected were: President, Harry Hooker, Willcox; vice-president, Charley McKinney, Courtland. Mrs. May Z. Smith, Willcox, was rechosen secretary-treasurer.

Officers chosen at a meeting of the Elbert County (Colorado) Cattle Growers' Association were Elmer Mourning, Kiowa, chairman; Fred Beuck, Agate, vice-chairman; A. G. Cornforth, Elbert, secretary-treasurer; and Ben Fraser, Simla, and Cort Ohlson, Kiowa, directors.

Speakers included Dr. R. M. Gow, state veterinarian, who urged a law making possible pursuit of live-stock thieves across state lines; Dr. W. B. Stout, senior extension economist of the Department of Agriculture, who discussed the cattle outlook; Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary-manager of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, who urged opposition to the Argentine pact and discussed Colorado live-stock legislation; and A. C. Allen, of the animal husbandry department of the Colorado Agricultural College, who outlined the government agricultural program.

Fresno County (California) Cattlemen's Association held its spring meeting at Sanger, California, on April 14. Speakers included P. O. Wilson, of Chicago, manager of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, and Sheldon Potter and Earl Schlaman, president and secretary, respectively, of the Pacific States Live Stock Marketing Association.

Frank Simpson and Sig Hobler, both of Sanger, are president and secretary, respectively, of the Fresno organization.

Madera County (California) cattlemen met at Madera on April 17 and heard the following speakers: Hugh Baber, president of the California Cat-

tlemen's Association; F. E. Mollin and Hubbard Russell, secretary and vice-president, respectively, of the American National Live Stock Association; Clyde Harris of the live-stock identification service of the California state organization; and John Curry, secretary of the California association.

Reorganization of the Madera County Branch of the CCA was effected by the group. Officers elected were Gene Mallory, president; Brooke Mordecai, vice-president; and Archie Shaw, secretary—all of Madera County.

Amador-El Dorado Live Stock Association members met at Placerville, California, on April 3, electing Orrin Van Vleck, Sloughhouse, president; E. E. Payen, Folsom, vice-president; and Camilla J. Celio, Placerville, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee includes George A. Wilson, Folsom; J. C. Forni, El Dorado; R. E. Granlees and John P. Yager, Ione; and Rufus Swift, Shingle.

Annual meeting of the Santa Barbara branch of the CCA was held at Los Alamos on March 20. Walter Buell, of Buellton, is president, and Ted Chamberlin, of Los Olivos, secretary.

Five cattlemen's meetings in California, arranged in co-operation with the California Cattlemen's Association, were attended during the third week in April by Secretary F. E. Mollin, of the American National Live Stock Association. National problems and legislation affecting the live-stock industry were outlined by the national secretary at these meetings.

First meeting, which also included a barbecue, was at Oak Park, California, with the Ventura County branch of the CCA. Officers elected at the meeting were Marion Fagan, Santa Paula, president; Morris King, Piru, vice-president; Ronald Richie, Fillmore, secretary-treasurer. At Los Alamos on April 13, Mr. Mollin spoke before the Santa Barbara meeting referred to in this column. At Bakersfield a meeting was held with the Kern County branch of the state association, of which A. J. Alexander, Onyx, is president and Mrs. M. L. Follansbee, Bakersfield, secretary. "Give-a-calf" plans for supporting association work were matured at the three meetings.

In Los Angeles, at the Hotel Roslyn on the 15th, an informal meeting of cattlemen was held. The final gathering was at Madera, with members of the Madera County branch of the CCA. This column contains reference above to that meeting.

Iowa Aberdeen-Angus Breeders, meeting at Des Moines, Iowa, March 15, expressed by resolution "vigorous protest against any modification of any

regulation which now prevents the importation of live stock or meat from any country or section of any country that has foot-and-mouth disease."

* * *

Jackson Hole Cattle and Horse Growers' Association members, meeting at Jackson, Wyoming, April 3, 1937, discussed grazing problems and heard Russell Thorp, secretary of the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, speak on brand inspection and live-stock depredations. Nephi Moulton and Clifford Hansen, both of the Jackson Hole country, are president and secretary, respectively.

* * *

Montana-Wyoming Live Stock Protective Association members, at recent meeting held in Sheridan, re-elected the board of directors as follows: L. S. Fuller, president, Manville Kendrick, Owen Hoge, Levi Howes, Golet Gallatin, Alonzo Shreve, Robert T. Helvey, Dan Burns, and M. F. Childress.

* * *

Stock-growers of Middle Park held their regular annual meeting at Kremmling, Colorado. Mark Hinman was re-elected president, Harry Morris, secretary, and Ted Engle, treasurer—all of the Middle Park section.

The Middle Park association offers the largest reward of any such organization in the United States for the arrest and conviction of live-stock thieves. Stockmen present expressed satisfaction with the results obtained by offering this large bounty—\$250 to \$1,000.

Meat Sticks to the Ribs

ASSERTING THAT STUDIES ARE REVEALING more and more the importance of meat in the diet, Miss Anna E. Boller, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, stressed the fact that meat is a richer source of more dietary essentials than any other food, in an address given at the annual meeting of the Virginia Dietetic Association at Roanoke, Virginia.

"In determining the value of any food from the standpoint of growth and maintenance of health, its protein content is of first importance," said Miss Boller. Protein furnishes body-building material and heat and also has a beneficial effect due to its dynamic action. Meat is a rich source of protein. The fact that the protein in meat is of high biologic value is of especial significance. Studies of peoples living on low protein diets show that they are toneless, slow of reaction, and lacking in resistance to disease.

"The old idea that a diet high in protein is harmful to the kidneys has been discarded in the light of recent carefully controlled experiments. At the University of Chicago, for example, animals were put on a diet with a protein

intake corresponding to five times the normal amount in the human diet. No kidney damage resulted. The explorer, Stefansson, who lived for nine years in the Arctic and a year or more in this country on a meat diet, furnished further proof. Tests and observations made annually have shown that Stefansson has kept in excellent health."

Until recently, according to Miss Boller, meat has not been regarded as especially important from the standpoint of vitamin content. Research sponsored by the Board, however, is showing that meat is one of the richest sources of vitamin B. All meats, including beef, pork, and lamb, are rich sources of this vitamin. Vitamin B is made up of many factors, each performing a different function in the body. Among these functions are promotion of growth, protection against deficiency diseases, prevention of cataracts, and stimulation of the appetite. Liver rates high as a source of vitamin A, which is valuable in building up resistance to infection and in guarding against certain impairments of vision.

"Based on average servings," Miss Boller stated, "meat is a richer source of phosphorus than any other food. The dental profession is agreed as to the importance of phosphorus in the prevention of dental decay. The medical profession recognizes the fact that an adequate phosphorus supply is necessary for proper bone development and thus the prevention of rickets."

The Board's representative brought out that meat leads the list of common foods as a source of energy. However, it is an accommodating food with an energy value high or low, depending upon the amount of fat it carries. She described research studies made under the sponsorship of the Board which show that, paradoxical as it may seem, meat is invaluable in both weight-reduction and weight-gaining diets. In the case of meat for weight-reduction, the fat is removed and the diet is below normal in starches and sugars. In the weight-gaining diet, the fat is not removed and the starches and sugars are above those for the normal diet.

In the weight-reducing studies on a diet built around meat, the average weight loss per person was 10 to 12 pounds per month. In the weight-gaining diet, liberal in meat servings, the average gain per person averaged 1½ pounds per week. In both diets, patients have the privilege of eating meat three times per day.

"In addition to the fact that meat is a rich source of the essential food elements," said Miss Boller, "it ranks high in palatability and in satisfying values. A meal with meat gives the feeling of well-being for a longer period of time than a meal without meat. Scientists and laymen alike are agreed that meat 'sticks to the ribs.'"

Beaver Advocated for Nevada

PLANTING OF BEAVER IN THE STREAMS of Nevada and affording them full protection was advocated recently by George C. Larson, supervisor of the Nevada National Forest, as a means of benefiting the ranchers and sportsmen of the state.

Beaver, which are now scarce in Nevada, are far more beneficial in the mountain streams, Larson says, than is generally known. Watershed and erosion control and the improvement of fishing were named by him as among the advantages which would result from planting the rodents.

"Half of our farms and ranches depend upon small streams originating in the mountains for irrigating water," he explained, "and usually these streams have been so badly washed by floods that gravel and silt is constantly brought down in such quantities as to fill ditches and canals and cover valuable farm lands."

"This is prevented in a large degree where beaver have made their dams along the streams, slowing down the flow and depositing the gravel and debris before it reaches irrigation canals."

"During periods of high runoff, water is stored in the beaver ponds, which, in some parts of the West, is then drawn off later when needed by breaking the dam."

Forage conditions are usually improved by beaver dams, according to the forest supervisor, because they check the flow of rapid streams, spreading out the water and resulting in a greater production of succulent grasses and willows.

"Control and regulation of the beaver population is necessary, however," Mr. Larson pointed out, "since they may do considerable damage if they operate in or near irrigation canals and ditches, where they may flood fields and damage crops. Roads, trails, and other improvements are also subject to damage by beaver, but, fortunately, the animals can be easily trapped and moved alive to sites where their activities can do no harm."

Breeding Better Alfalfa

WITH ALFALFAS OF GREATER DISEASE resistance, wider adaptability, and better yields the goal, seed from selected American strains as well as from more recent foreign introductions will be planted in uniform nurseries at about 40 state experiment stations this year.

This breeding project, in which the states co-operate with the Department of Agriculture, is under the general direction of H. L. Westover, alfalfa specialist of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Bacterial wilt, various types of leaf spot, and other less serious diseases will be observed. Bacterial wilt, a com-

mon disease first discovered in the Midwest, has spread gradually throughout the country. Leaf spot is a fungus particularly destructive in the humid states east of the Mississippi. Most Turkistan alfalfa show some resistance to wilt, but when grown in the East prove susceptible to leaf spots.

Because alfalfa is essentially a dry-weather crop—in most years about 80 per cent of all alfalfa seed comes from regions where the average annual rainfall is less than 20 inches—strains adapted to all regions have developed slowly. Alfalfa originated in semiarid southwestern Asia. First historical mention was about 700 B. C.

In the United States much seed comes from irrigated lands of Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and California, where the annual rainfall average is from 5 to 10 inches. Another low rainfall area southeast from Montana to Oklahoma, east of the Rocky Mountains, also produces a large amount of seed both with and without irrigation.

Alfalfa As Pasture Crop

Alfalfa has been increasingly used for a pasture crop in the United States in recent years, says Mr. Westover. Two serious drawbacks to grazing alfalfa—bloating and overgrazing—have been investigated by the department and co-operating experiment stations. Both may be overcome to a large extent.

Bloating may be minimized by feeding the animals other forage, preferably hay, before turning them on the alfalfa. Those who pasture successfully allow the stock to graze only a few minutes at a time, until they become accustomed to the alfalfa, and to have access to a stack of hay or straw at all times. Plenty of water and salt should also be available.

A pasture rotation solves overgrazing. Alfalfa makes a quick recovery, as shown by the many cuttings obtained when it is grown for hay. Three or four plots give the stockman a chance to graze one field while the others recover.

New Creeping Alfalfa

A creeping alfalfa, discovered by Mr. Westover on an exploration trip to Asia three years ago, promises to be a valuable grazing and soil-building plant for the semiarid regions of the West.

The plant, found in a stony goat pasture in a semiarid region of northern Turkey, is being experimented with in the sand-hill country near Hyannis, Nebraska, where it has sent out shoots that rerooted in the first season as far as twelve inches from the crown. It is a poor seed producer and does not grow high enough for mowing, which limits its uses to grazing and, because of its strong root system, to protection against erosion.

Alfalfas are naturally semiarid plants, but the growth and habits of the new

creeping alfalfa and the conditions under which it was found indicate that it is even better equipped to withstand close grazing and drought conditions.

The department has no seed or plants of creeping alfalfa for distribution.

Appearances May Mislead

BREEDING AND FATTENING EXPERIMENTS at the United States Range Live Stock Experiment Station, Miles City, Montana, indicate unreliability of present methods of judging breeding beef cattle by physical appearance only and emphasize value of records of performance, reports W. H. Black, in charge of beef cattle investigations in the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Two carefully selected Hereford bulls from the same sire and with dams that were cousins were used on two groups of Hereford cows, one group scoring considerably below the other.

Although the lower-scoring bull was mated with the poorer cows, calves from both groups averaged about the same in individual excellence. The quality inherent in the lower-scoring bull and cows was even more evident in the feedlot, where calves from this group made 11 per cent greater daily gains and 6 per cent more efficient gains.

Pigs from a purebred Chester White boar averaged two more per litter, 11 per cent greater daily gains, and ate 36 pounds less feed for each 100 pounds of gain than pigs from another boar of the same breed and similar in appearance. These results emphasize the probable genetic differences between the two boars, as well as the sows to which they were mated, since the sows were litter sisters and were essentially equal in individual excellence.

Twenty-nine daughters of a purebred Rambouillet ram weighed more at weaning, still more after shearing as yearlings, and produced an average of 2 pounds more wool than 21 daughters from another purebred Rambouillet much like in appearance.

Drought Cycle May Be Ended

WEATHER BUREAU OFFICIALS BELIEVE that the dry cycle should now be ending, but they cannot guarantee it, says an *Associated Press* dispatch, dated April 18.

Rains and snows that fell in the past three months from the Dakotas to Texas have brought better moisture conditions in the soil than existed in the spring of either 1934 or 1936—both disastrous drought years on the prairies. Normal rains during the growing season would insure good crops. Rainfall during the next few months will determine how much will be harvested.

If rains are erratic during the next four months, crops in North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Nebraska, and Texas

would be the first victims. The average precipitation during the past six months in these states is near the danger point of 80 per cent of normal.

The Weather Bureau's figures for the six months ending April 1 follow by states:

Minnesota, 98; Iowa, 101; Missouri, 119; Arkansas, 132; North Dakota, 77; South Dakota, 91; Nebraska, 76; Kansas, 98; Oklahoma, 87; Texas, 72; Montana, 80; Wyoming, 94; Colorado, 104; New Mexico, 96; Idaho, 74.

Fast Farming in the Future

"MORE LABOR-*SAVING MACHINERY*," said Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in a recent talk, "should come into use, and I would anticipate that our children in 1962 might be able to produce as much corn with 20 hours of labor as grandpa produced with 100 hours. I am anticipating also that unless there are great disasters of one sort or another we should be able to change our methods of breeding and feeding hogs so as to produce 100 pounds of gain with 100 pounds less feed than is the case today. I know it is possible for the farmers of 1962 to produce the necessary pork for the people of the United States with about one-half as much labor and land as they use today."

The Calendar

May 17-18—Annual Convention of Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n, Yakima, Wash.

May 18-19—Convention of Western North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n, Dickinson N. D.

May 19-21—Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n, Bozeman, Mont.

May 28-29—Northern Arizona Cattlemen's Live Stock Show and Jubilee, Holbrook, Ariz.

June 1-2—Convention of Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n, Casper, Wyo.

June 4-5—Convention of Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n of Oregon, Prineville, Ore.

June 7-8—Convention of Western South Dak. Stock Growers' Ass'n, Philip, S. D.

June 8-10—Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, No. Salt Lake, Utah.

June 10-12—Convention of Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Broken Bow, Neb.

July 2-5—Golden Jubilee, Prescott Frontier Days, Prescott, Ariz.

July 16-17—Convention of Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Aug. 4-6—Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Ass'n, Kemmerer, Wyo.

Aug. 7—Pueblo County Stock Growers' Ass'n Annual Picnic, Rye, Colo.

Jan. 12-14—Forty-first Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Ass'n, Cheyenne, Wyo.

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EDITORIALS

Argentine Pact

FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS THE live-stock industry has had hanging over its head the threat of ratification of the sanitary convention negotiated with Argentina by Secretary Hull and signed on May 24, 1935. It was of necessity sent to the United States Senate for ratification and immediately referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Fortunately for the live-stock industry of this country, many members of that committee are well informed about matters of this kind—they remember the costly experiences we have already had with foot-and-mouth disease, and they have taken a firm stand against action to ratify the pact.

During the time that has elapsed since the signing of the convention, there has been a rising chorus of opposition to ratification coming from all sections of the country. It has by no means been confined to the live-stock industry. Every group that comes in contact with the live-stock industry is concerned. Entirely unrelated industries remember the paralyzing effect the outbreaks in 1914, 1924, and 1925 had on all kinds of business.

Every experienced veterinarian in the country is unyielding in his opposition to the measure. Sportsmen, game conservationists, and lovers of outdoor life remember the slaughter of more than 20,000 deer in California in 1924. Legislatures all over the country—in Arizona, California, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, the Dakotas, Texas, Wyoming, Nevada and undoubtedly in other states—have memorialized the Senate not to ratify the convention.

On the other side are only the officials

of the Department of State, the National Foreign Trade Council, and the Foreign trade element of the United States Chamber of Commerce. This group is in a minority in that body and failed to put over a resolution endorsing the pact when the annual meeting was held late last month at Washington.

Despite unfair and misleading propaganda to the contrary, the battle is being fought entirely on the merits of the agreement as it effects our present sanitary regulations. Repeated but unsuccessful attempts have been made to maneuver the opposition into a position where it could be shown it was seeking only economic advantage. It has been charged that the opponents did not understand the purpose of the agreement, and hence their opposition was based on a misapprehension. Time has shown that they better understood the true significance of the attempt and the possible consequences thereof than the diplomats, who know nothing of the hazards in the live-stock industry and whose main objective is increased world trade.

The time has come when the attempt to ratify the agreement should be abandoned, the signed document withdrawn from the Senate, and the threat against our industry permanently removed. Sanitary regulations should originate with the Bureau of Animal Industry—not in the Department of State. We do not hire carpenters to dig a well, nor woodcutters to plaster a house. We have the most efficient sanitary officials in the world. Why not leave to them the handling of matters of such vital importance to one of our greatest industries? Surely the diplomats can find matters more within their province to give full play to their ambitions and abilities.

Rising Pork Imports

FROM 1890 TO 1930, INCLUSIVE, there were only five years—1893, 1910, 1911, 1913, and 1914—in which our exports of pork products and lard combined did not exceed 1,000,000,000 pounds. In four of those five years they were in the neighborhood of 900,000,000 pounds, while in 1910 they were approximately 700,000,000 pounds. It was this period which marked the rapid development of the corn-hog belt and during which the hog gained its reputation as the champion mortgage-lifter of the world.

In the light of that record, who would have thought it possible within a period of a few short years so completely to change the picture? But the official records show that imports of pork (exclusive of lard) for the four months December to March actually exceeded exports. Imports of hams, shoulders, and bacon have been especially heavy, totaling almost 8,000,000 pounds for January and February combined, the major

part of them being Polish canned hams.

Warning comes from abroad that other European countries are preparing to invade our markets with similar products and that this invasion can continue even at prices materially lower than those prevailing today. Imports are increasing week by week; docks at eastern seaports are piled high with pork products. The hog-producer of the Corn Belt has ample cause to view the situation with alarm.

True, there is a small tariff on pork products—2½ cents per pound on fresh, chilled or frozen meat; 3¼ cents on bacon, hams, shoulders and other pork, prepared or preserved. These rates were considered of nominal importance in 1930, when the last tariff act was passed.

Ordinarily recourse could be had to the Tariff Commission under the flexible provision of the act, but today that door is closed, and the Tariff Commission has practically ceased to function in order to give Secretary Hull free rein with his reciprocal trade program. Beef-cattle producers learned that fact to their sorrow last fall when they applied for an increase in the tariff on canned beef. Despite the fact that imports had more than trebled in three years' time, the commission refused even to investigate the matter.

A very serious aspect of the situation is the effect which this competition may have on independent packers in the East. Many of them specialize on pork products, and this new competition strikes right at their usual market. Packer competition, never too healthy, was reduced by the fact that many independent packers went broke with the burden of the hog-processing tax. It would be tragic and of serious concern to the whole live-stock industry if this aftermath of the AAA program and the drought still further decimates the independents.

Just what can be done about it remains to be seen. That hog-producers will not meekly accept the situation is already a certainty. Whether relief can be secured at this session of the Congress is an open question, but the start will be made. Once started, other groups adversely affected by increasing imports will join in, and eventually a first-class tariff battle is inevitable. For the first three months of 1937, our total imports exceeded our total exports by \$113,959,000, compared with a favorable trade balance of \$3,257,000 for that period a year earlier.

With this increasing flood of imports of all descriptions, what will be the result if and when we return to a basis of normal production of corn, hogs, and many other commodities; or must we permanently restrict our production? These are weighty questions; they cannot be lightly answered. The time is not far away when the Congress must again give serious consideration to the entire problem of production and protection.

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Marketing Costs

THE INCREASED COST OF DOING business, largely due to labor cost, is reflected in various applications to the Packers and Stock Yards Administration for permission to increase commission and yardage rates.

A year or so ago an adjustment was made at St. Louis on commission rates for selling hogs. About the same time yardage rates at Sioux City and St. Joseph were "upped" a bit. More recently, a 7 per cent increase in commission rates was allowed at Chicago. Two advances have been made in yardage rates at that point, despite the fact that an official hearing to determine reasonable rates has just been concluded. The final decision will supersede the new schedules filed. Many other applications for increases are being received.

No doubt there is some justification for such increases. The lessened total supply of hogs and the increase in direct marketing of all types of live stock have curtailed revenues at the yards. It is of interest to note that the marketing agencies, which in many instances have fought for years in court to prevent the enforcement of Packers and Stock Yards Administration orders lowering rates, are quick to appeal to that body for relief when the shoe is on the other foot. If the Packers and Stock Yards Administration resorted to the tactics employed by the marketing agencies in the past, it would be several years before increases could be granted.

The increases referred to are temporary. Should there be a recession in operating costs, the Secretary is at liberty to order the old rates back into effect without further hearing. When that time comes, it is hoped that the marketing agencies will accept a return to the old basis in good spirit and without resort to legal process.

State Tariffs

WHEN WISCONSIN TAXED OLEOMargarine 15 cents a pound, she figured that was the way to sell Wisconsin butter. Now she wonders if it is. A resolution in her legislature calls for an investigation of the oleomargarine tax, because other states, particularly in the South, are retaliating against Wisconsin products.

We rather think that the investigation requested will easily show up the folly of the tax directed against producers of animal and vegetable fats that go into margarine. Aside from the matter of hurtful retaliation, it will no doubt be found that the law has been of no help at all to Wisconsin dairymen.

Similar "state tariffs" have been passed in other states. South Dakota has one on oleomargarine; she had a

law taxing lard substitutes, but found it advisable to repeal it. Iowa is considering taxing lard substitutes, but her Department of Agriculture suggests that "the thing for Iowa to do, if she wishes to regain her lost lard market, is to increase the quality of her product, advertise its goodness, and win back her lost lard market by offering the housewife a more wholesome and more satisfactory product than the lard substitutes."

The Iowa agriculture department's advice is sound. Protectionism or other doctrines on which federal imposts are based should not apply as between state and state.

Going Highbrow

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE Examination Circular No. 38, issued April 5, 1937, informs the public that the Forest Service is in the market for a psychologist at the rate of \$3,800 a year. His main duties are to be in connection with fire-prevention work in forest areas. What will be the next step? Will this branch of the service be enlarged so that psychologists will be available to assure live-stock producers how much they are benefited when their permits are reduced?

Grading Favors Common Beef

LAST MONTH THE PRODUCER PROMISED to furnish a list of prices of beef to prove that beef grading at Seattle has not depressed the price of the lower grades there.* New York prices have been chosen for comparison with those at Seattle. Here they are:

	SEATTLE	NEW YORK
	Oct. 3, 1935	
Steer, medium....	11.00-12.50	11.00-13.00
Steer, common....	9.00-11.00	10.00-11.00
Cow, common....	7.00- 8.00	9.00-10.00
	Oct. 1, 1936	
Steer, medium....	11.00-12.00	11.50-13.50
Steer, common....	9.50-10.00	10.50-11.50
Cow, common....	7.50- 8.00	9.00-10.00
	Jan. 7, 1937	
Steer, medium....	12.00-13.00	13.00-15.50
Steer, common....	11.50-12.00	11.00-13.00
Cow, common....	8.00- 9.00	9.00- 9.50
	Feb. 4, 1937	
Steer, medium....	12.00-12.50	12.50-14.00
Steer, common....	11.00-11.50	11.50-12.50
Cow, common....	8.00- 8.50	8.50- 9.50
	Mar. 4, 1937	
Steer, medium....	12.00-13.00	12.50-14.00
Steer, common....	11.00-12.00	11.50-12.50
Cow, common....	9.50-10.00	10.00-11.00
	Apr. 1, 1937	
Steer, medium....	14.00-15.00	13.50-15.00
Steer, common....	13.00-14.00	12.00-13.00
Cow, common....	10.00-11.00	10.50-11.50

*See editorial, "Grading Bill Fight," in April issue of THE PRODUCER.

GOVERNMENT

More Forests Recommended

ACQUISITION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF sufficient lands to establish and consolidate national forests in regions where federal ownership of forest land will meet pressing economic and conservation needs is recommended in the annual report of National Forest Reservation Commission. Three recommendations are offered:

1. Prompt establishment of federal ownership of forest land presenting peculiar problems of social and economic adjustments which demand early action and which cannot adequately be met by state or private agencies.

2. Consolidation of established national forest purchase units to a degree permitting of their most effective and economical management by the Forest Service.

3. Extension of federal ownership and management into new territories in which requirements are not so acute as in the first case but where all the facts demonstrate that federal ownership and control are distinctly in the public interest.

Federal purchases for state forests, under the Fulmer Act, are limited to \$5,000,000 a year to be spent in a number of co-operating states. The Secretary of War points out that the development of state forests alone will not be sufficient to meet the national need for forest conservation.

In the last four years, \$45,543,500 has been available to the Forest Service for national forest land purchases. In the fiscal year 1936, 3,579,580 acres were acquired for \$13,433,716, and 2,891,040 acres were approved for purchase, to cost \$11,592,318.60.

Within the boundaries of purchase units scattered through thirty states and Puerto Rico at the end of the fiscal year were 51,284,528 acres, of which 19,300,513 acres were in government ownership or in process of purchase. Of this total, about 2,500,000 acres had been acquired by reservation from the public domain, 250,000 acres by exchange, and a few hundred by donation. Of the remaining unacquired gross acreage, 23,818,371 acres were believed desirable for purchase by the government, and about 9,165,644 acres better suited for private ownership.

During the year the commission created eight new purchase units—the Northern Redwood, Southern Redwood, Tahoe, and Sequoia in California; the Grand Lake in Maine; the Arrowrock in Idaho; and the Provo and Davis county units in Utah.

Twelve existing units in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, South Carolina, Ver-

mont, and West Virginia were enlarged. Local demand for establishment of national forests was so strong, says the report, that to prevent undue scattering of purchases approvals were given only to units in which 20 per cent or more of the purchasable area had already been approved.

Government Forecasts

Cattle

ALTHOUGH THE OUTLOOK ON CATTLE prices is uncertain, the continued shortage of grain-feds in prospect "probably will result in higher prices for the better grades of slaughter cattle in the late summer and early fall than in the early spring of this year," says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its forecast issued in mid-April. Seasonal declining prices of the lower grades is looked for in late spring and early summer, but the decline will be somewhat less than usual. Slaughter is expected to be somewhat smaller than that of 1936 but larger than the average of 1924-33.

Sheep and Lambs

It is pointed out that unfavorable weather and feed conditions delayed marketing of the spring lamb crop. Fewer new-crop lambs will be marketed this spring than last, and the seasonal decline in prices which usually begins in early June may start somewhat later this year. An offsetting factor is the near-record marketings of wethers and yearlings in prospect from Texas during the next two months. Spring lambs are likely to continue above those of a year earlier—during May and June at least. The number of lambs remaining in feed-lots of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming in early April is reported to be 10 per cent down from last year.

Hogs

The increasingly unfavorable corn-hog ratio may cause early marketings of fall pigs from most areas, says the report. A 5 per cent decrease in the number of sows to farrow this spring, as compared with farrowings last spring, is looked for, but a favorable corn crop will result in a greater number of sows bred to farrow in the fall. Hog slaughter between now and October 1 is expected to be smaller than during the same period last year. Prices probably will average as high as or higher than a year ago because of stronger consumer demand this year. The usual seasonal price advance during late summer is expected.

Farm Price and Demand

The general level of farm prices is not likely to change greatly during the next few months, but "some weakening in prices is to be expected as new crop con-

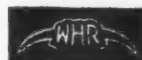
ditions become of increasingly great importance," according to the bureau. The forecasters also see domestic consumer demand for farm products remaining relatively stable during the next few months, a "tapering off of the advance in the general trend of wholesale prices during the remainder of the year," and a larger volume of agricultural exports.

RACC Revived

RESUMPTION, TEMPORARILY, OF LENDING activities of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation in Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana is announced by the Farm Credit Administration.

In reoffering RACC facilities, the government's intention is to lend for restocking purposes to help round out economic units, or for the wiping out of old loans where the chances are that borrowers can pay out. The element of relief will not enter into consideration of applications, nor will the government urge loans on stockmen in competition with other lending agencies. The plan, which will come nowhere near the scope of the original one, may be tried in other states if there is demand for it, it is believed.

The following prerequisites which must be part of an applicant's credit rating were cited for Nevada:



Ask Anyone!

A New Mexico cowman writes:

All of us in this country have heard and seen a few of your bulls—IN TALKING ABOUT THE BEST WE ALWAYS REFER TO WHR'S.

Bone and ruggedness, plus quality, means weight and premium price for your product sired by WHR bulls.

Some long-aged yearlings ready now—we know you will like them.

Wyoming
Hereford Ranch
CHEYENNE

1. It must be apparent that under normal conditions and over a period of years his plant can carry the debt load, and that, after restocking, earnings will be sufficient to provide operating expenses, including taxes and interest on real and personal indebtedness and a reasonable annual reduction of the debt to the corporation.

2. The applicant must be equipped at the present time to handle additional live stock without materially increasing operating costs, and he must be an experienced operator of good reputation.

3. To qualify for a loan, the applicant's unsecured and other secured short-term indebtedness must be in a satisfactory condition, with the requirement, if necessary, for discharge, compromise, or long-term non-disturbance agreement; he may be required to arrange for a readjustment of his real estate indebtedness on a longer term amortization basis or through possible scale-down.

Clippings from the Capital

Canned pork, now protected by a tariff of 3½ cents, would take a tariff rate of 6 cents a pound—the same as canned beef—under a bill introduced by Congressman Harry Coffee, of Nebraska. The change would come about through amending paragraph 703 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which carries the 3½-cent rate, to except items packed in air-tight containers, thus automatically shifting canned pork into paragraph 706 application, where items "not specially provided for" carry a rate of 6 cents.

A thousand more farms were sold by federal land banks in the first quarter of 1937 than in the corresponding period of last year, W. I. Myers, Farm Credit Administration governor, has announced. Farm owners and previous tenants bought 3,625 farms and 637 parcels of land from the land banks in the first three months of the year, compared with 2,632 and 402, respectively, in the like period during 1936.

Ecuadorian products on which the State Department is prepared to consider tariff concessions include dried bananas, naranjilla juice, dressed balsa lumber, and straw hats—now subject to American customs duties—and green and ripe bananas, plantains, quinine barks, cocoa beans, coffee, kapok, reptile skins, tagua nuts, and unmanufactured balsa wood, which now are on this country's free list.

Contributions of the CCC to social and economic welfare of the nation "justifies its continuance as a permanent part of the government," Director Robert C. Fechner of the Civilian Conservation Corps said in a letter accompanying the CCC's fourth anniversary report to Presi-

dent Roosevelt. The President agrees with this view, and recommended that the corps be made a permanent agency, with maximum enrollment of the youths at 300,000, together with 10,000 Indians, and 5,000 enrollees in United States territories and insular possessions. Some legislators demanded that provisions be made for a larger enrollment.

About 1,150,000 of the 3,000,000 bales of 12-cent loan cotton which the government had on hand January 1 has been sold. Average price was a little over 13 cents a pound. Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, said he did not know what the corporation would do with the remaining 1,850,000 bales on which the government has loans, but indicated farmers would be given further chance to liquidate their holdings.

President Roosevelt on April 2 approved a transfer of \$5,000,000 from the unexpended balance of soil conservation funds to be used to finance a fight to forestall wind erosion in the dust bowl. The program will be handled by AAA administrators in the five states suffering most seriously—Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Senate took action on S.1397 on March 30 toward regulating farmer's income by approving a crop insurance measure for wheat. Those wanting insurance will have the government store a portion of wheat for them in good years and pay them premiums in wheat or its market equivalent in bad years.

Thirteen states by April 17 had adopted legislation (standard state conservation acts)* which will make it possible for farmers in any community to force a minority to "go along" in soil conservation practices regardless of their wishes. The legislatures which have passed the act are Arkansas, Georgia, Maryland, Kansas, Maine, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont.

Five recent decisions of the Supreme Court upheld validity of the Wagner Labor Relations Act and inferentially broadened the interstate commerce clause of the constitution. Most important among them was the ruling in the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company case, in which it was stated that "although activities may be intrastate in character when separately considered, if they have such a close relation to interstate commerce that their control is essential or appropriate to protect that commerce, Congress cannot be denied the power to exercise that control." The act, the court

*April PRODUCER, page 22, gives the standard state statute for erosion control prepared by the Department of Agriculture.

said, "does not interfere with the normal right of the employer to select his employees or to discharge them, but he may not, under cover of that right, intimidate or coerce his employees with respect to their self-organization or their representation." The Wagner act forbids employers to (1) dismiss employees because of union membership or engaging in union activities; (2) support or organize "company unions;" (3) refuse to bargain with any labor organization which is chosen by majority; or (4) bargain with other groups that are chosen by majority of employees.

Revising his estimate on the budget, President Roosevelt told Congress that the government will have a "net deficit of \$418,000,000" in the 1937-38 fiscal year. He promised "to use every means at my command to eliminate this deficit." He recommended the appropriation of \$1,500,000,000 for relief. The \$418,000,000 deficit anticipated contrasts with budget estimates the President sent to Congress last January in which he said the budget would be in virtual balance except for a statutory debt retirement item of \$401,515,000.

Proposed new program for agriculture, presented by AAA Administrator H. R. Tolley in testifying before a House appropriations subcommittee in connection with the agricultural appropriations bill for the 1938 fiscal year, calls for (1) loans to farmers on crops, similar to old corn loans by Commodity Credit Corporation; (2) production adjustment through payment of subsidies to farmers on percentage of acreage withdrawn from cultivation basis under control of Secretary of Agriculture; (3) production control program giving farmers an allotment and imposing heavy taxes above the quota allowed; (4) continuation and expansion of present powers for the removal of farm surpluses; (5) federal crop insurance.

Processing tax of 3 cents per pound imposed on coconut oil imported from the Philippine Islands was approved by the Supreme Court on May 3. The decision is believed to clear the way for payment to the insular government of more than \$40,000,000 in taxes collected under the law and set aside for it.

Reuben Brigham, chief of the regional contact section of the AAA, has been appointed assistant director of the extension service. In 1917 Mr. Brigham was appointed to the staff of the Department of Agriculture. He became chief of the division of information section of the AAA, and as such was responsible for maintaining contacts with educational forces, farm organizations, magazines, and field agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

Ratifications of the trade agreement between the United States and the Netherlands, signed on September 20, 1935, were exchanged in Washington on April 8, 1937. The agreement will go into effect on May 8.

* * *

Artificially low rates for federal land bank loans to finance farm purchases may cause a land boom with widespread undesirable effects, in the opinion of Governor W. I. Myers of the Farm Credit Administration. However, on May 1, the Senate agricultural committee agreed on a bill extending the 3½ per cent emergency rate to the 1938 fiscal year; in 1939 the rate would be stepped up to 4 per cent.

* * *

A bill has been introduced by Representative Theodore A. Peyser, of New York City, which would exempt tallow from the import tax and the compensatory tax imposed under the internal revenue laws.

* * *

Administration's \$470,000,000 assistance program for low-income farmers was approved on April 8 by the House agricultural committee. Under the bill the Secretary of Agriculture is empowered to make \$50,000,000 in loans annually for the next five years to tenant farmers for purchase of property. Loans would be made on recommendation of county committees.

* * *

Retirement from the egg market has been announced by the government. The egg purchase program, intended to help support prices received by farmers, cost more than \$2,000,000; 8,000,000 dozen eggs were purchased. A plan to buy from 7,000,000 to 10,000,000 pounds of fish has been announced, under which \$1,000,000 will be spent in an effort to remove surplus stock from the market and boost return on current catch.

* * *

The National Grange has demanded rejection of President Roosevelt's judiciary reorganization plan, restrictions on imports of foreign meat products, and continuance of the present 3½ per cent interest rate on mortgages held by federal land banks. Use of ever normal granary plan, soil conservation, crop insurance, and similar measures to protect agriculture, the enactment of legislation to reduce farm tenancy, and defeat of the bill that would repeal the long-and-short-haul clause of the transportation act were recommended.

* * *

Senate Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation has reported favorably a bill to set aside \$500,000 relief money for construction of small storage reservoirs in drought states. The funds would be administered by the Reclamation Service, Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney,

of Wyoming, author of the bill, said. The bill places a limitation of \$50,000 on the cost of any one dam.

* * *

Power to restrain trade acts and practices which defraud and deceive the general public without necessarily injuring competitors would be given to the Federal Trade Commission under the Wheeler amendment to the FTC act passed recently by the Senate. Under the present law the commission is required to prove that competitors of the defendant have been injured before it can stop continuance of an unfair practice.

* * *

Constitutionality of the Social Security Act may be decided before June 1, as the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a test case involving the old-age retirement phase of the law. The court already has a suit under consideration which deals with the validity of the unemployment compensation taxes.

* * *

Senate agricultural committee has reported favorably a bill to authorize an annual appropriation of \$5,000,000 to begin a program in co-operation with states and territories designed to stimulate reforestation activities.

* * *

H. R. 5722, a bill to re-enact authorization for AAA marketing agreements, passed the House on April 19.

* * *

H. R. 6215, repealing the law requiring publicity of salaries of \$15,000 or more paid by corporations, passed the House on April 27.

* * *

H. R. 3687, extending until 1941 the soil conservation program of direct payments to farmers pending state administration of the service, passed the House on April 5.

* * *

S. 1504, co-operative farm forestry, \$2,500,000 annually authorized; passed Senate April 20.

Department of Agriculture appropriation bill for the 1938 fiscal year passed the House on April 23. It appropriates \$927,398,500—a \$143,402,149 increase over the same measure last year—for the AAA, soil conservation, Weather Bureau, highway aid, and other activities.

* * *

Public Resolution No. 26, to control grasshoppers, etc., \$1,000,000 appropriation, was signed by the President on April 27.

Dry Spells in the Nineties

HERE ARE TWO DUST-BOWL NOTES FROM Dodge City, Kansas, as quoted in *Wallace's Farmer*:

"April 6: The dust was blinding and was deposited so thickly on office furniture that everything looked as though it were covered by a layer of dirt prepared for a hotbed.

"April 8: At 10 A. M. the dust in the air was so dense that objects could not be distinguished 100 yards off. No one who could possibly remain indoors was on the street."

The first report, comments the publication, was dated, not 1937, but 1893, and the second 1890. There have been dry spells before out West. Only, after the dry spell of the early nineties, folks decided that the climate had changed, and turned to farming range land. They were wrong, as the 1930-36 dry spell proved. The plowing did not make more crops—just more dust—says *Wallace Farmer*.

According to Professor R. I. Throckmorton, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, who is preparing a drought report for the Department of Agriculture, dust storms were reported on the plains of the Southwest even before the country was settled, and they can never be entirely eliminated.

In 1830, according to Throckmorton, the Reverend Isaac McCoy, a missionary to the Indians, crossed Kansas and reported encountering a severe dust storm.

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Traffic and Transport

CHAS. E. BLAINE

Product Rates Not Justified

THE COMMISSION IN I. & S. DOCK-ets 4214 and 4253, referred to in the August, 1936, PRODUCER, at page 17, has found not justified the downward revision of rates on fresh meats, packing-house products, and related articles, in straight or mixed carloads, from Chicago, Illinois, to various destinations in the states east thereof and ordered the suspended schedules canceled and has discontinued the proceedings.

The proposed reductions were stated by the railroads to be necessary to meet motor-truck competition. They were supported by three of the major packing companies in Chicago. Packers in the territories east and west of Chicago, along with the Central Motor Freight Association and others, opposed the proposed reductions.

Several interests, according to the report, petitioned the commission to institute a general investigation of both the rail and truck rates on fresh meats and packing-house products and to correlate such rates to those on live stock from origins in the Western Trunk Line Territory and from Chicago to destinations east of Chicago. The commission denied the petition, stating that it was not convinced that a general investigation was warranted.

Montana-to-California Rates Condemned

The commission in No. 27214, *Los Angeles Union Stock Yards Co., et al. v. C., M., St. P. & P., et al.*, also No. 27243, *Ogden Live Stock Exchange, et al. v. A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co., et al.*, condemned the rates on live stock from points in Montana to destinations in California over routes through Butte and Silver Bow, Montana, as unreasonable where such routes are shorter by more than 150 miles than the shortest routes from and to the same points through Oregon, to the extent they exceeded or may exceed the rates prescribed in the *Western Live Stock Case* from and to the points concerned. The commission awarded reparation accordingly. The new rates via Butte and Silver Bow are ordered to be established not later than July 22.

From the same Montana points to points in Nevada the commission found the rates not shown to be unreasonable.

Loading and Unloading Legislation

Certain stock-yards companies have caused to be introduced in Congress S. 2129 and H. R. 6181, which, if enacted into law, would transfer from the Interstate Commerce Commission to the De-

partment of Agriculture jurisdiction over loading and unloading charges on live stock originating at or destined to public stock-yards. The bills are opposed to the best interests of the live-stock producers. Under the system of rates and rate making in the United States, the rates and charges in effect include the services of receiving and delivering property, including live stock. However, for many years charges in addition to the line-haul rates were assessed on live stock originating at or destined to public stock yards. Thus the shipping public was subjected to dual charges for such services. Consequently, the American National Live Stock Association, in about 1919, was successful in securing the passage by Congress of Section 15(5) to the Interstate Commerce Act, which, briefly stated, provides that transportation by railroad of ordinary live stock in carloads destined to or originating at public stock yards shall include all necessary service of unloading and reloading en route, delivery at such stock yards of inbound shipments into suitable pens, and receipt and loading at such yards of outbound shipments without extra charge therefor to the shipper, with minor exceptions not material here. Under this provision of law, the rates to or from public stock yards now in effect on live stock include the services of unloading and reloading en route and at point of origin and destination, and the Interstate Commerce Commission has jurisdiction thereover.

The proposed bills would, if enacted into law, nullify the provisions of Section 15(5), or at least result in conflict of jurisdiction and the laws administered by the commission and the Department of Agriculture. Hence they should be defeated.

Routing Bills

The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce has ordered favorable report on S. 1261—through routes. This bill is in the interest of the shipping public and should be supported thereby, for the reasons stated at page 24 of the April PRODUCER.

Pettengill Bill

On April 14 the House, by a record vote of 268 to 120, passed the Pettengill bill to repeal the long-and-short-haul clause of Section 4 of the Interstate Commerce Act. No doubt the proponents of the measure will now seek action by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, of which Senator Wheeler, of Montana, is chairman.

Rail and Truck Rates Suspended

The railroads and the motor carriers serving California, Arizona, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, published, generally speaking, the same basis of class

rates to become effective May 1 between interstate points in the states named. At the present time the rates of both sets of carriers are what are commonly known as "all-freight" commodity rates. The class rates specified by them would result in increases of 15, 30, and 45 per cent in the present rates on articles rated third, second, and first class, respectively, with minor increases and reductions on fourth-class commodities. The El Paso Freight Bureau and Chamber of Commerce filed forceful petition with the Interstate Commerce Commission for suspension of the proposed rates. The Arizona Corporation Commission, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Arizona Wool Growers' Association, Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, Central Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association, and Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association joined in the petition of the El Paso interests by joint joinder filed with the commission. It is understood that several other interests also protested against the proposed rates.

The rail carriers in 1931 established, and have subsequently maintained, all-freight commodity carload rates from points in southern California to Phoenix, Arizona. These rates were originally published for six-month period, but the expiration date thereof has been extended from time to time but would have expired April 30. The Arizona Corporation Commission requested the commission to suspend the expiration date, and the other Arizona interests above named joined therein.

We are informed that the commission has granted the requests for suspension of all the rates covered by the foregoing petitions. However, at the time this is written we have not received the formal orders of the commission.

The action of the carriers in publishing the same set of rates for rail and truck transportation is contrary to the spirit and the letter of the law. When the Motor Carrier Act, 1935, was being debated in the Congress, Chairman Wheeler (79 Cong. Rec. 5735) stated:

"There has been propaganda by some who do not want any regulation to the effect that this bill would cause an increase of rates up to the standard of the railroad rates. That contention is not based upon any fact, but is based upon pure propaganda, in my judgment, and is without foundation.

"Co-ordinator Eastman has suggested—and we have written the suggestion into this bill specifically—that bus and truck operations should be viewed by the commission in the peculiar light of their particular business, and that railroad rates should not be the yardstick for the rates which should be established for bus and truck operators."

Thus it is clear that Congress provided that truck rates should be predicated upon the cost of performing the service plus a reasonable profit, as dis-

tinguished from using the rail rates as a yardstick.

Rogers Warns Motor Carriers

Since the rate-making sections of the Motor Carrier Act, 1935, became effective on April 1, 1936, representatives of many of the motor carriers have informed shippers and others that the increased rates, rules, and regulations proposed or established by them have been ordered or fixed in conferences by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Honorable John L. Rogers, director of the commission's Bureau of Motor Carriers, has definitely spiked such misleading propaganda in an address at Boston, Massachusetts, on April 8, 1937, in the following language:

"There should be no misunderstanding on the part of the shippers and motor carriers as to the participation of the Bureau of Motor Carriers in conferences of this nature. There is hardly anyone familiar with the facts who does not recognize that the rate situation in the motor-carrier industry at the present time is chaotic. Destructive competition is prevalent in many quarters, and many carriers are handling traffic without due regard to the cost of lawful, efficient, and dependable service. Especially is this true if one will but look ahead to where the present course is leading. Unless corrective action is promptly taken, the service expected by the shippers is going to suffer and many of the operators are destined to financial failure.

"Shippers are complaining of the chaotic condition and hope for reasonable and stabilized rates reflected in tariffs which can be interpreted by the average shipper or traffic manager. The sole purpose of our participation in conferences of the operators such as this is to encourage the operators to survey the situation and put their own house in order. We have not, and we shall not, in any case dictate or even suggest what action the operators, individually or collectively, shall take as to any rate, classification, rule, or regulation under consideration.

"It is a function of the commission to protect shippers against unreasonable charges or regulations, and whatever results are derived from these conferences must be subjected to the tests of reasonableness. The operators cannot afford to lose sight of this consideration.

"Whatever tariffs grow out of such conferences are subject to protest and suspension by the commission if it appears that they carry unreasonable and unlawful charges or regulations. Participation in these conferences does not mean that the bureau sanctions or approves the product of such conferences. The bureau and the commission must keep an open mind and be able to consider any protests fairly and on their merits.

"At the same time, we urge the operators to recognize the chaotic rate situation now existing and to set about in a constructive and broad-minded manner to bring about immediate improvements. The operators can be fair with their shippers and with each other. We are glad to participate in the undertaking on this basis."

Thus the foregoing clear and yet concise language of Director Rogers repudiates the misleading propaganda which has been and is being spread by many of the motor carriers.

Workmen's Compensation

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE is based upon the principle that injury to employees is an insurable risk, writes Josiah C. Folsom in the *Agricultural Situation*, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The National Safety Council has more than once stated that agriculture is one of the most hazardous of occupations, and has estimated that in a single year there were among agricultural workers almost 5,000 fatal accidents, and that 85,000 men received injuries involving loss of time from work. Farmers seem to be more exposed to occupational hazards than do many other workers because of long hours, physical weariness, the variety of work, and increased use of machinery.

In spite of these facts some state laws treat agriculture as a non-hazardous occupation. Most persons consider it comparatively safe. Data concerning the matter are hard to obtain.

On January 1, 1937, only two states were without laws dealing with workmen's compensation, says Mr. Folsom. Concerning the other 46 states and the District of Columbia he sets forth the situation as outlined here:

The laws of 14 states and the District of Columbia specifically exclude agricultural workers from their benefits.

Three states exclude farm workers from benefits of their workmen's compensation laws by failing to list them among the workers covered.

Some states require workers engaged in certain extra-hazardous farm tasks to be insured under their workmen's compensation acts.

Workmen's compensation insurance for agricultural workers is elective in 3 states.

In about 26 states, farmers may voluntarily take out workmen's compensation insurance under their state laws.

Available partial information concerning workmen's compensation insurance in about 50 other nations indicates that three out of five of those nations have such laws relating to agriculture. In a quarter of them coverage seems to be complete. In another quarter, coverage applies only to employees using

machinery. Other nations have coverage limited in various ways.

So far as comprehensive coverage is concerned, the United States as a whole has lagged behind other nations in providing workmen's compensation insurance for agricultural laborers, says Mr. Folsom. He concludes that the present growth of demand for an application of social insurance in this country indicates that workmen's compensation insurance may be extended to agricultural laborers within a few years.

World Meat Trade Decreases

ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY THE International Institute of Agriculture, quoted by Reuter's Trade Service from Rome, international trade in meat has considerably diminished during the last ten years, says the *Meat Trades Journal* (London). A diminution has taken place in both living animals and meat. Says the *Journal*:

"The decrease in meat is partly due to smaller consumption and partly to larger production in a number of importing countries, which have thus been able to reduce their imports. This development was favored by good fodder crops from 1929 to 1933 and the very low prices for concentrated feed on the world market.

"Bad fodder crops in 1934 and 1935 in importing countries and a certain economic recovery in 1935 led to an improvement in the international meat trade. But, although meat consumption in many countries is still very low and capable of great expansion, such expansion is not to be expected in the present circumstances of the international trade, says the Institute. Indeed, as noted above, certain countries have greatly reduced imports and are keeping consumption within the limits of available quantities, and others, actuated by the desire for greater independence of foreign countries, have increased their production capacity and there is little indication of this capacity again being decreased."

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MARKETS

Tonnage Slim

(Continued from page 9)

opinion exists in trade circles as to the actual cattle holdings of the principal grazing states. Consensus—local, of course—is that a considerable reduction has occurred during the past five years, as calf crops have been closely sold, few young cattle have been carried past the yearling stage, feed-lots have been constantly full of heifers, and cows have been sacrificed in large numbers either on account of age, lack of feed, or financial necessity. All this has put the commercial breeding industry in strong statistical and strategic position, as feeders' needs will take care of the increase for several years to come. Practical elimination of the two-year-old steer will be a boon both to breeders and feeders, as the big bullock is a trouble maker, profitable only during periods of corn scarcity, and even then requiring excessive gain cost. By feeding young cattle this cost is reduced, more animals are needed to compensate for loss of tonnage, less corn is required, and the product is adapted to consumer demand. The recent supply of light, short-fed steers, 800 to 1,000 pounds, met no congestion at the selling stage, the beef went into consumer channels promptly, and a large percentage of the winter production not only paid a costly feed bill, but showed substantial profit margins. Beef yields were deficient, but distributors were not hampered by inedible fat or excessive weight. The great majority of beef-eaters are evidently willing to sacrifice quality if they can get down in price and avoid buying such fat as long-fed bullocks carry.

Hog Product Accumulates

Hog product continues to accumulate in packers' cellars, creating a troublesome summer distribution problem. All winter the average cost of hogs at Chicago has hung around \$10 per cwt., the top rarely reaching \$10.50. Advocates of price stabilization cannot point to this as a meritorious performance, as \$9.50 to \$10.25 has bought the bulk of finished 180- to 300-pound barrows, in striking contrast to a broad \$12 to \$14 market for the bulk of fat steers. Slaughter, while somewhat in excess of 1936, has absorbed unfinished shoats by the hundred thousand, sacrificed by growers to evade an unprofitable feed bill. These second-grade and common hogs have been penalized anywhere from 25 cents to \$1 per cwt. and have always been bought under protest. The fall pig crop of 1936 went to the packer early and at light weight, so that curtailment may be expected. After the June run of sows is in, pork production will be reduced until the spring crop gets a full feed of corn. Free marketing of sows in June or later, when pigs have been weaned, will insure accretions to existing stocks of lard and meats. Holders of these stocks, especially that of lard, are not seriously concerned, as they expect light slaughter from July to December.

No convincing reason has been assigned for failure of the winter and spring hog market to keep pace with other branches of the trade. Plausible excuses are continued heavy imports of Polish hams, running from 500,000 to 1,000,000 pounds weekly, plenitude and relative low cost of poultry, and the indisputable fact that fresh pork is costly. Growers are protesting, but will stick to hogs in expectation of cheaper feed. Complaint that the corn-hog ratio is adverse to the hog means nothing, as a parity rarely exists. The spring pig crop is expected to be somewhat under that of 1936, but has made its start under favorable weather conditions, and, when the inevitable break in corn comes, growers will resume making fat barrows, now as scarce as heavy cattle, weights exceeding 300 pounds having almost disappeared. Light hogs, 140 to 170 pounds, are the underdogs of the market at present, but a few more heavy butchers would set them back. A large percentage of the winter crop has been cashed at light weight and in deficient condition; otherwise the accumulation would have been enormous. Lard is a sales problem packers are facing, and, unless consumption can be increased, carrying hogs into weight will be sheer folly.

Lambs to Follow Uneven Course

Erratic lamb markets will continue. Breaks and pick-ups ranging from 50

cents to \$1 per cwt. within a few days will be ameliorated when the industry goes on a new crop basis. A \$13.25 market at intervals during February was due to delinquency on the part of California; a subsequent break to \$12 to \$12.50 reflected a heavy movement from Texas which reached eastern markets at an opportune moment to avert semifamine. The Kentucky and Tennessee run began early in May at \$13 to \$13.50 and will fill in the gap until the main column from the Northwest is ready. The 1937 lamb crop in the West will be of about the same numerical strength as that of last year; in the Corn Belt there will be an appreciable increase. When hog production was curtailed farmers expanded poultry and lamb production, and where a farm flock gains a foothold it is there to stay. A high market for fat lambs is insured until along next September, when prices will be determined by the feeder end of the crop, corn yields, and disposition of feeders to go the pace. With cheaper feed and abundant pasture, the Corn Belt from Ohio to the Missouri River will buy lambs, as cattle will be high and cheap fall gains on roughage will afford inducement to invest.

No Sign of Weakness in Hides

BY JAMES E. POOLE

AN ADVANCING HIDE MARKET SHOWS no signs of weakness. The incubus of government hides has been practically eliminated, packers are closely sold up, and the trade frequently lapses into "nominal" periods. Impending, if not actual, slaughter curtailment, with scarcity of heavy hides, is a bullish factor.

Shoe machinery is fully employed, activity in every branch of the leather manufacturing industry being well sustained. Footwear is being bought in anticipation of still higher prices based on enhanced cost of leather and an upturn in wages, taxes, and other incidental costs. During April both hides and leather markets developed activity, elevating prices to new highs for the year. Barring another drought, no trouble is anticipated. Inspected cattle slaughter is steadily falling below that of the corresponding period of 1936, the winter-fed crop of cattle has been reduced materially, and it is doubtful if the western country will come within 15 to 20 per cent of its 1936 contribution of hides. Present quotations are the highest since 1929, and as Europe is competing for Argentina's take-off a surplus is impossible.

Seventeen cents is the popular, and at intervals the nominal, price for heavy hides, Texas reporting a large volume of sales at that figure. The high spot is on light native cows at 16 cents. The bulk of all sales of packer steer hides is in a range of 15% to 17 cents, cows selling

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at 15 to 16 cents. South American hides are realizing 17½ to 18 cents at New York.

Tanners all over the country are acquiring raw materials in anticipation of further curtailment of slaughter. Packers have only to hold off the market to maintain the previous trading basis, indicating the security of their position.

Wool Market Firm

BY JAMES E. POOLE

STRENUOUS EFFORT TO BUY WOOL FOR less money meets stiff resistance from holders. A larger volume of business would be possible if an assortment were available. The Texas clip, recently taken from the sheep's backs, is moving eastward to relieve a scarcity period extending over several months. At the present scale of prices, mill-men are naturally operating on a hand-to-mouth basis, as any effort to secure a considerable poundage would send prices to higher levels.

Wool picked up at shearing stations adjacent to the markets has been readily absorbed around 40 cents a pound. A spread of \$2 per cwt. between woolled and shorn lambs indicates how anxious packers have been to pull the staple. As a result they have bagged the bulk of the season's production, the pulling operation being decidedly profitable. In fact, wool has realized prices that took a load from the meat at the distribution stage. Buyers have had credits of \$3.50 to \$3.65 per cwt. on their purchases, and these credits never indicate actual values. The Texas clip, contracted early in the season, was sheared in April, whereupon a deluge of clipped yearlings reached Fort Worth en route to eastern slaughter pens, realizing prices that, in combination with wool, insured substantial profits to Texas flock owners.

At this writing, fleece wools are selling in a limited way in a range of 41 to 49 cents a pound. Fine combing is quoted at 44 to 46 cents; fine clothing, 38 to 40 cents; half-blood combing, 47 to 48 cents; three-eighths-blood combing, 47 to 49 cents; three-eighths-blood clothing, 41 to 43 cents; quarter-blood combing, 46 to 47 cents; low quarter-blood, 41 to 43 cents. On a clean basis, territory, or western, wools are quoted as follows: Fine combing, \$1.12 to \$1.14; fine clothing, 98 cents to \$1.03; half-blood combing, \$1.07 to \$1.12; half-blood clothing, 95 cents to \$1; three-eighths-blood combing, 93 to 98 cents; three-eighths-blood clothing, 88 to 90 cents; quarter-blood combing, 87 to 90 cents.

The market is firm from top to bottom, with no surface indication of breaking when the big package of western wool reaches eastern concentration points. Holders of spot wools are confident of the security of their position, refusing to make concessions except on

odd lots. Early arriving Texas twelve-month wools are selling in Boston at \$1.03 to \$1.06, scoured basis.

Demand for men's wear is healthy, mill activity has been well sustained, and mills are steadily reducing stocks in hands. Fabric prices are strong to slightly higher. Fall fabrics have appeared in the piece-goods market, a considerable yardage having been promptly taken, mills booking orders for fall business. An unsatisfactory industrial situation, which shows signs of clarifying, is a handicap; but, after brief duration, actual strikes are invariably compromised.

Consumer reaction to advancing clothing cost must be taken into the reckoning. During the low period and on the subsequent rise, the national wardrobe has been replenished, and, as prices are marked up, there is a tendency either to defer purchasing additional clothing or buy cheaper grades. Further advances will stimulate increased use of wool substitutes.

Whenever sufficient new-clip wool reaches eastern concentration points, activity will be resumed, especially if the labor situation clarifies. Buyers are interested in raw wool, despite ruses to conceal the fact. Australia and London report advances, London auction sales have been promptly cleared, and every importing country evidently needs wool. In the Southern Hemisphere the selling season is practically over and a practical clearance of the clip has been made.

A slight drop in consumption since the turn of the year has had no influence on current bullish sentiment. The 1937 clip, according to the Department of Agriculture, will reach practically the same volume as 1936, or an aggregate of 360,327,000 pounds. As stocks are at low ebb, statistical strength is obvious. The bullish factors are:

Disappearance of the Southern Hemisphere clip;

High purchasing power of the rank and file of consumers;

Broad demand for summer clothing, with indication of continuance into the fall and winter seasons;

Meager stocks of domestic wools; Strong foreign markets.

Wind Erosion without Dust

WIND EROSION DOES NOT ALWAYS MEAN a spectacular dust storm, according to the Soil Conservation Service. Some of the most destructive wind erosion in the country from the standpoint of soil loss occurs without a trace of dust. At the Cottonwood Experiment Station in South Dakota there has been no spectacular soil drifting at any time; yet recently when it was necessary to refer to the permanent concrete markers on the farm they were found buried under a layer of topsoil from 6 to 20 inches deep—practically all moved by wind.

Chicago Prices

LIVE STOCK

	May 3, 1937	Apr. 1, 1937	May 1, 1936
SLTR. STEERS (1,100-1,500 lb.):			
Choice	\$13.25-15.50	\$13.75-15.25	\$ 9.25-10.00
Good	11.00-14.00	11.00-14.25	8.00- 9.25
SLTR. STEERS (900-1,100 lb.):			
Choice	11.75-15.00	13.50-15.00	9.25-10.00
Good	10.00-13.25	10.00-13.75	8.00- 9.25
SLTR. STEERS (900 lb. up):			
Med.	9.00-11.25	8.25-11.00	7.00- 8.00
FED YOUNG STEERS:			
Good-Ch.	9.75-13.50	10.00-14.00	8.00-10.00
HEIFERS:			
Good-Ch.	9.50-13.00	9.00-13.00	7.50- 8.75
COWS:			
Good	7.25- 8.50	7.00- 8.00	6.00- 6.50
CALVES:			
Good-Ch.	6.00- 9.50	6.00- 8.00	6.25- 9.25
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS:			
Good-Ch.	7.50-10.25	7.75-10.00	7.00- 8.25
Com.-Med.	6.50- 7.75	6.50- 7.75	6.00- 7.25
HOGS:			
Med. Wts.	10.10-10.40	9.75-10.25	10.25-10.60
LAMBS:			
Good-Ch.	10.25-12.25†	12.00-12.50†	11.50-12.10
EWES:			
Good-Ch.	4.00- 5.25*	6.00- 7.00†	5.75- 6.50

WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

STEER (700 lb. up):			
Choice	\$19.00-20.00	\$18.50-19.50	\$13.50-14.50
Good	16.50-19.00	15.00-18.50	12.50-13.50
STEER (500-700 lb.):			
Choice	18.00-19.50	17.00-19.50	13.00-14.50
Good	16.00-18.50	15.00-18.00	12.00-13.50
YEARLING STEER:			
Choice	17.50-18.50	17.00-18.50	13.00-14.50
Good	15.50-17.50	15.00-17.00	12.00-13.00
COW:			
Good	13.00-14.00	12.00-13.00	11.00-12.00
VEAL:			
Choice	15.00-16.00	13.50-14.50	13.00-14.00
Good	14.00-15.00	12.50-13.50	12.00-13.00
LAMB:			
Choice	18.00-20.00	18.50-20.00	21.00-22.00
Good	17.00-19.00	17.50-19.00	20.50-21.50
MUTTON:			
Good	9.50-10.50	11.50-12.50	13.00-14.00
PORK LOINS:			
8-12 lb. Av.	21.50-24.00	18.00-20.50	19.00-21.50

*Shorn.

†Woolled.

Live Stock at Stock Yards

	March 1937	1936	First 3 Months 1937	1936
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*	1,142	1,115	3,218	3,355
Calves	585	510	1,544	1,473
Hogs	2,224	2,045	6,800	6,393
Sheep	1,576	1,701	5,231	5,195
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	396	395	1,101	1,171
Calves	169	161	444	475
Hogs	619	606	2,006	2,046
Sheep	620	666	2,146	2,088
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	148	155	399	409
Calves	36	35	89	94
Hogs	42	33	98	90
Sheep	60	66	253	219
FEDERAL INSPECTION SLAUGHTER—				
Cattle*	825	763	2,400	2,411
Calves	592	483	1,513	1,353
Hogs	3,033	2,617	9,394	8,364
Sheep	1,312	1,374	4,327	4,223

Three ciphers omitted. Receipts and shipments are for sixty-nine markets.

*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

Meat Holdings

Commodity in Pounds (000 omitted)	Apr. 1 1937	Mar. 1 1937	Five-Yr. Aver.
Frozen beef	111,753	61,099	45,168
Cured beef*	30,932	18,410	17,638
Lamb and mutton	7,176	2,334	2,123
Frozen pork	328,059	98,397	174,079
Dry salt pork	89,145	88,348	96,345
Pickled pork*	338,891	263,404	357,006
Miscellaneous	116,679	66,604	61,695
Total meats	1,022,635	598,596	754,054
Lard	217,569	76,814	104,566
Frozen poultry	120,420	69,494	73,969
Creamery butter	6,741	5,346	8,377
Eggs (case equiv.)	2,925	2,117	2,572

*Cured or in process of cure.

FOREIGN

Australian Letter

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

BY A. C. MILLS

AN EXPERIMENT WHICH MAY ultimately have an influence on the beef cattle breeding industry in north Australia has just reached a definite stage. Broadly speaking, our northern cattle are bred and fattened on tableland country within the tropics. The normal wet season there extends from about mid-November to mid-March, and during the four or five summer months at least three-fourths of the annual rain falls. In common with other parts of the tropics, the summer "wet" is a period of extremely rapid growth, but, owing to the soft nature of the feed and to the prevalence of insect pests, it is not the best time for fattening. In actual fact, few fats can be turned off much before mid-May, and, as pastures go off towards the end of winter, the supply is usually exhausted by about October. This means that the northern packing plants which cater for the beef export trade only operate for six months in the year, which in its turn means high operating costs that are reflected in the price paid for fats.

On the lower-lying land of the east coast, in what may be termed the sugar belt, the incidence of rainfall is better spread, even though annual falls may be heavier. Here, natural feed grows luxuriously pretty well all the year round, but it is mostly too soft properly to finish cattle, and apart from which the country is infested with ticks. As, however, the fertile areas are restricted, it has become a district of relatively small holdings and lends itself to controlled feeding. Dairying has been carried on there for some years with very fair success, and last winter one of the leading men in the district initiated experimental fattening of inland cattle.

In June a small mob of mixed bullocks and steers was obtained from a property some 400 miles inland and after inoculation against tick fever was transferred by train to the east coast. The inoculation gave 100 per cent immunization, and, according to reports published at the time, the cattle suffered no noticeable setback as a result of the rail journey and change of feed. Further, in spite of 219 inches of rain and many wet days between June and the

end of September, they more than held condition on sown pastures consisting chiefly of guinea grass and *panicum muticum*. They were judged to be fit to kill in February.

As the northern packing plants were all closed at that time, it was necessary to truck the cattle to Brisbane, a distance of well over 1,000 miles. The journey occupied five days, inclusive of two for spelling, so the wastage and bruising was heavy. The bulk of the consignment was sold in the Cannon Hill, Brisbane, yards immediately on arrival, and it is not altogether surprising to hear that the trade was disappointed at the appearance of the bullocks, which were soft, wasty, and bruised. Weights ranged from 540 to 650 pounds and prices per head from \$30 to \$44.

It subsequently transpired, however, that twenty picked steers from the consignment had been reserved by the Queensland Meat Industry Board for later slaughter at the state abattoir. These were first rested for a week, given a liberal ration of lucerne hay, and, as the carcasses showed, made a remarkable recovery for so short a period. Practically all signs of bruising disappeared and the condition of meat and fat was so satisfactory that all the sides were graded for export as chilled beef. The average hot weight was 620 pounds.

Those responsible for the experiment claim that the result demonstrated the practicability of topping up western-bred cattle in the north-coast areas. Whether it is a payable proposition is perhaps another story. For one thing, no data have been made available about original costs, selling prices, weight added while on the coast, or the feeding costs incurred. Information on those points would be of particular interest.

Possibly, if the scheme were adopted generally, one or another of the northern packing plants would remain open during the summer to treat the cattle and thus obviate the necessity for trucking 1,000 miles to Brisbane. That certainly would save the wastage, bruising, and expense involved in the long rail journey. Also, no doubt, the soft condition of the beasts due to the nature of pastures in the wet coastal belt could be improved materially by finishing off on corn, which is one of the staple crops in the north.

The experiment was interesting, and it now remains to be seen whether it will be followed up on a large scale. The

state government is interested, but farmers are slow to move. As far as that goes, they can hardly be blamed for holding off until it is clearly demonstrated that there is profit in fattening western cattle and an assurance is given that there will be a market for them within a reasonable distance from pastures.

The 1937 beef export season is opening with a feeling of optimism in Queensland. Thanks to generous summer rains, practically the whole of the state and the north of the continent are in good heart. Natural feed is plentiful, and, what is more important, the announced buying rate of packers is 10 to 15 per cent higher than at the commencement of the 1936 season.

After the usual mid-summer slackness, the Brisbane plants are becoming busy, and by the end of March should be operating nearly to capacity. Those in central Queensland also are now slaughtering cattle regularly and with steadily increased tallies. The March buying rate in South Queensland is on the basis of \$7 per 100 pounds, chilled weight, delivered at abattoir, for first-grade steers and heifers and \$6.25 per hundred for seconds. For April delivery, when supplies are expected to be plentiful, shippers are offering \$6.75 for first and \$6 for seconds. The central division works are paying \$6.25 for first grades and \$5.50 for second grades, March delivery, and 25 cents per hundred less for April delivery. Bowen, the first of the more northern plants to open, is offering \$5.50 for best light steers and \$4.80 for seconds, April delivery. The other northern factories will not start killing until the very end of April, and their buying rate is \$5.25 for first steers and \$4.55 for seconds.

Seasonal conditions elsewhere in Australia, with the exception of portions of the far west where a drought still prevails, are generally favorable. Feed is plentiful and stock is doing well. Fat-cattle values are rather above the normal summer level, ranging from \$7.20 to \$8 per 100 pounds for prime light steers and to \$7 for medium and heavy descriptions.

Live Stock in Far South

ALTHOUGH IT IS THE MOST SOUTHERLY region in the world normally inhabited, the Magallanes Territory, of which the capital is Magallanes (previously Punta Arenas), situated in the Strait of Magellan, has a considerable live-stock population, states the *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne). Its area of 137,545 square kilometers is more than a sixth of all Chilean territory. Generally the soil is of poor quality, being exceptionally weak in phosphatic and calcareous content, but there is, in parts, land suitable for agriculture.

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Punta Arenas in 1858 up to the year 1935, the stock numbers have increased from: Cattle, 9; horses, 180; sheep, 34; to: Cattle, 15,498; horses, 15,374; and sheep, 2,621,911.

Extensive sheep-raising forms the basis of the wealth of Magallanes Territory, and it is claimed by the Chilean government that it would be difficult to find a good woolen textile without it containing, in some part, the wool so well known as "Puntas" in the world market. This wool is said to have a special strength and quality, which prevent easy wrinkling of textiles containing it. To quote from the September, 1936, issue of the official monthly report of the Chilean government: "The finest and waviest wools are the best and come from the Merino and Corriedale stock."

The average cut per head from the sheep is about 3 kilos (6.6 pounds), and of the annual yield of 17,600,000 pounds, not less than 75 per cent is sent direct to London. The principal exported products in 1935 were approximately: Wool, 17,588,762 pounds; frozen meat, 23,495,828 pounds; sheepskins, 8,074,717 pounds; tallow, 10,865,410 pounds; and sheep casings, 662,151 pounds.

Live Stock in Sudan

SUDAN'S 3,000,000 CATTLE HAVE TO get along with one dipping tank, writes a Cooper Sheep Dip representative in South Africa, as quoted from the *Pastoral Review* (Melbourne). We extract from his letter.

"Although there are about three million head of cattle in the Sudan, there is only one dipping tank in the whole of the country. The chief diseases affecting cattle seem to be the cattle plague, contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia, trypanosomiasis, and foot-and-mouth disease. Sheep scab and keds are practically, if not entirely, unknown in the country among the 3,000,000 odd sheep owned by the natives. The skins from 'hair' sheep of the Sudan are finely grained and light and make the finest glaze. They are largely used for the manufacture of high-grade gloves, fine fancy leather goods, and the best chamois leather. There are about 300,000 camels in the Sudan, and they suffer very badly from ticks."

Feedstuffs

ON MAY 4 COTTONSEED CAKE AND meal was quoted at \$43.40 a ton, f.o.b. Texas points. Omaha hay prices on May 3 were as follows: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$22 to \$23; No. 1, \$20 to \$21; standard leafy, \$17.50 to \$19; standard, \$15 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$14; No. 3, \$12 to \$13; upland prairie—No. 1, \$16.50 to \$17.50; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$15.50; No. 3, \$11.50 to \$13; midland prairie—No. 1, \$16 to

\$17; No. 2, \$12 to \$14; mixed hay—No. 1, \$16 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$13.50 to \$15; No. 3, \$11.50 to \$12.50; straw—oats, \$7; wheat, \$5.50.

From Foreign Fields

To counteract effects of the British meat import quota and new duties on chilled and frozen meat from the River Plate, the Uruguayan government recently granted to meat exporters a premium equivalent to British duties on chilled and frozen meat and a premium of 2½ centesimos per net kilogram on canned meat exported to "the United States and other points except the United Kingdom." The premiums are not export bounties, say the Uruguayans, but a "rectification of exchange discrimination."

Forty-three commission firms on public stock yards in Canada have formed a national association. The sole object of the new organization, according to its managing secretary, is "to work in the best interest of the live-stock industry."

Abandonment of the "prosperity certificates" plan by the Alberta Social Credit Government was announced in the Alberta legislature recently. About \$12,000 worth of the scrip was outstanding, and this, it was believed, would be redeemed shortly. Of \$500,000 in certificates printed in Calgary, only \$262,000 was issued.

In some Dutch villages it is a spring-time custom to lead a garland-decorated ox from door to door, letting each family select the joint it wants. This is diagrammed on the animal's hide and cut according to order after it is slaughtered.

Canadian tariff reductions on agricultural machinery implements and machinery parts coming from the United States are foreshadowed in a special committee report submitted to parliament. The report states that a "backlog of requirements approximating \$200,000,000 has been accumulated during the depression period which will have to be satisfied by farm implement and machinery companies during the next few years."

First chilled beef to be shipped to Japan arrived at Yokohama on February 18, 1937, from Swift Australian Company, Brisbane.

Rabbit raising in Japan as a subsidiary business of farmers has for years been aided by the Japanese agricultural authority. Rabbit meat, banned for some years through superstition, is now used extensively, if not advertised, instead of

chicken. In Germany, increase of domestic rabbit breeding is being advocated in the press as another means of saving foreign exchange.

Meat markets in Peru must purchase meat directly from live-stock dealers and not from middlemen. The law making this requirement is designed to protect the public against abnormal increases in the price of meat. Fines are imposed for selling meat at prices in excess of those fixed by the Ministry of Fomento (Internal Affairs).

Estonian government has decided to form a monopoly under state supervision for meat and live-stock exports. Licenses of the five firms formerly engaged in exporting live-stock and meat products have been canceled and their activity taken over by the export monopoly. Purposes of the monopoly are: Elimination of unnecessary competition and placement of meat export trade on a sound basis.

Queensland cattlemen, experimenting with the zebu cross, may in another year, when the program will have reached maturity, place the beef on the English market. It is claimed that the progeny mature earlier than any other breed or cross, increase in weight more quickly, are not susceptible to diseases, and are better "doers" in times of drought.

French export bounties on pork, decreed on December 6, 1936, at 1.50 francs per kilogram (3.1 cents per pound) for slaughterer hogs and 1.20 francs for live hogs exported, were increased on February 17 to 2.40 francs and 2 francs, respectively.

Pigs on British farms number 25 per cent more than the highest number recorded before 1933.

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ROUND THE RANGE

Range and Stock Conditions

IN A SPECIAL REPORT TO THE PRODUCER, F. W. Beier, Jr., of the Denver office of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates, gives western range and live-stock conditions as of May 5 as follows:

Most northern ranges made slow growth during April, resulting in late feed. Moisture conditions generally are good, except in the western Great Plains sections that were dry in 1936. Live stock gained well where new feed is good, but showed little improvement in northern sections. Losses of both sheep and cattle were light during April, except in limited local 1936 drought areas.

Range and pasture feed prospects improved materially with ample moisture in the eastern Dakotas, eastern Nebraska, Kansas, and eastern Oklahoma, but new feed is late. The western Dakotas, eastern Montana, northeastern Wyoming, parts of western Nebraska, western Kansas, southeastern Colorado, northwestern Texas, and northeastern New Mexico have only limited supplies of moisture and will need rain to make new feed and overcome effects of the 1936 drought. Feed in much of this area is late; it was hit by several dust storms during April that were hard on stock.

Range feed generally is good in Texas, but the northwestern part of the state is dry. California ranges have improved, but moisture is needed for some of the sheep ranges. In western Montana and most of Wyoming, ranges are late, but moisture generally is ample. Range prospects are good in the mountain and western Colorado sections, but dry in the east-central and southeastern parts. New Mexico ranges are late, with a shortage of moisture in the northeast and southwest. Ranges are late in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, but moisture is ample to make good feed.

Hay and other feed have been fed very close in most of the western sections due to long feeding and heavy shipping from surplus areas to sections where 1936 feed crops were insufficient.

Cattle are in fair to good condition and have made good gains in the southern areas. Little gain, however, showed up in northern and 1936 drought sections. Losses have been light, except in limited local areas where feed supplies were short. Calf-crop prospects are good except in the 1936 drought areas, and there has been some loss of early calves in a few northern sections. Cattle have moved rapidly from the western feeding areas, with a fairly large movement of feeder and stocker cattle from the Southwest. Cattle numbers are reduced in northern 1936 drought sections, and re-

stocking will be dependent on development of feed and finances.

Sheep gained some in the south and California, and are generally in good condition except where winter feed was short. Losses have been light, but some early shorn sheep and thin ones in drought areas suffered from April storms. Stormy weather delayed shearing in several sections. Texas has a good lamb crop; April marketings of sheep and lambs were about the largest on record. Lamb-crop prospects generally are good in Colorado and New Mexico, with favorable prospects for late lambs in other northern sections, barring early May storms. Wool contracting became active again late in March and continued until about the middle of April, with lessened activity since that time. Wool prices were generally on about the same level or slightly above those of late 1936 and early January contracts.

Cattle on Feed

CATTLE ON FEED FOR MARKET IN THE eleven Corn Belt states on April 1 numbered only two-thirds of those on feed April 1, 1936, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Actual numbers on feed—probably 400,000 head—were the smallest for April 1 in many years.

Reduction from last year was general in the whole area, only one state showing a gain over last year. Largest reductions were in the western Corn Belt, where the 1936 drought was most serious. In the eastern part the number this year, while smaller than last, was not greatly different from the average of the last five years, and the proportion of the Corn Belt total in this area was the largest in many years.

Western feeders, who held more cattle on January 1, 1936, than on that day a year earlier, made heavier marketings the first three months of 1937 than during that period in 1936. The number remaining was probably but little different from that of a year earlier.

Reports from Corn Belt feeders show that the proportion they expect to market during April to June is larger than the proportion reported in any other recent year. Thus the supply of fed cattle for market after July 1 may be relatively much smaller than the supply during the first half of 1937.

Estimated numbers on feed April 1 shown as a percentage of cattle on feed on that day last year were: Ohio, 95; Indiana, 80; Illinois, 88; Michigan, 110; Wisconsin, 77; Minnesota, 86; Iowa, 72; Missouri, 55; South Dakota, 25; Nebraska, 45; and Kansas, 70.

Pastures Bring High Rent

LEASE PRICES FOR PASTURE LAND IN the Osage and Blue Stem sections of Kansas and Oklahoma are the highest since 1931, according to report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

About the same percentage of Blue Stem pastures has been leased as was leased a year ago, the report added, with increased leasing reported in the Osage country.

Southwest cattle operators have been active in leasing, with local pasture owners leasing instead of putting in cattle. Fewer cattle have been carried over this year.

Lease prices generally are 50 to 60 cents a head higher than last year in the Blue Stem area, with increases of about 25 cents a head in the Osage country. Acreage guarantees a head in both sections are the largest in the last fourteen years.

Condition of pastures is reported to be below average but there is a liberal supply of moisture. Pasture feed is late, due to the cold weather. Heavy stocking and the last three years' droughts have thinned the grass stands, the report states.

The bulk of the leases for cows and steers on Blue Stem pastures are from \$7 to \$9 a head; for young cattle, \$5 to \$6; in the Osage country these figures are \$5.50 to \$7.50 and \$4 to \$5, respectively. Acreage guarantees are from five to seven acres for steers and cows and four to five acres for young cattle in the Blue Stem district; in the Osage section, guarantees are five to eight acres on steers and cows, and four to six acres for young stock.

Sheep and Lamb Shipments

NORTHERN COLORADO, ARKANSAS VALLEY, and Scottsbluff sections moved 5,504 cars of lambs between January 1 and April 24, this year, compared with 6,668 cars during that period last year, and 5,923 cars two years ago.

The northern Colorado movement this year was 3,223 cars; last year, 4,069 cars; two years ago, 3,479 cars. Arkansas Valley moved 754 cars, compared with 733 last year, and 836 two years ago. Scottsbluff shipments were 1,527 cars this year, 1,866 last year, and 1,608 cars two years ago.

California out-of-state movement of spring lambs during the January-April period involved 369 decks, or 51,127 head.

Continuous Grazing Preferred

ON THREE PASTURES USED EXPERIMENTALLY by the National Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, it was found that continuous grazing is to be preferred to alternate grazing.

Average yearly gains for the pasture

grazed continuously and lightly, one animal for two acres, were 287 pounds per animal; average gains for the pasture grazed continuously and heavily, one animal per acre, were 196 pounds per animal; average gains for the third pasture, divided into two sections, each grazed alternately for three-week periods, one animal per acre, were 194 pounds per animal.

Thus alternate grazing gives no extra returns, although requiring additional expense in fences and management. Results of the experiment apply generally to the middle Atlantic and eastern Corn Belt states.

Cost of Living Climbs

THE COST OF LIVING FOR WAGE EARNERS and low-salaried workers in 32 reporting cities increased again in the three months ending March 15, Secretary of Labor Perkins reports. The increase averaged 1.7 per cent, with food and household furnishing prices leading the advance.

"The March 15 index for the 32 cities combined," the secretary said, "based on costs in 1923-35 as 100, was 83.8, as compared with 82.4 on last December 15. Costs on March 15 were 3.9 per cent higher than on April 15, 1936, and 12.5 per cent higher than at the low point of June, 1933. They were still 15.9 per cent below the level of December, 1929."

Pacific coast cities reported the greatest increases in food prices in three months, Los Angeles' level going up 9.3 per cent, with Portland, Oregon, having a 7.9 per cent gain, and Seattle a 7.7 per cent advance.

Water Hemlock Poisoning

FARM ANIMALS, MOSTLY CATTLE, OFTEN die in early spring after eating water hemlock, which grows in swamps and wet meadows and is frequently abundant along irrigation ditches, warns A. B. Clawson, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The plants, of which there are several species, are considered the most poisonous in the United States. The species common in the eastern states is sometimes known as the spotted water hemlock. One which causes losses on the Pacific slope is called the tuber water hemlock. The different hemlocks are sometimes erroneously known as the wild parsnip.

Symptoms of water-hemlock poisoning in cattle are frothing at the mouth and violent convulsions which usually result in death within a short time. No effective remedy is known. The only means of prevention is to keep animals from eating the plants.

The plant usually may be identified by an examination of the rootstock and leaves. The poisonous species grow from rootstocks to which are attached roots

that may be small, as with the tuber water hemlock, or may be thick, fleshy tubers, as in the spotted water hemlock. The rootstock, cut open lengthwise, shows a number of transverse chambers, a characteristic which, however, occurs in a few other plants. The leaves are divided into leaflets, each of which is pointed and more or less saw-toothed along the edges. Branches of the leaf veins run toward the notches between the teeth.

Cattle in grazing eat off the top portion of the rootstocks or the entire rootstocks that have been thrown out when cleaning ditches or that have been washed out by water from higher elevations. Only a small quantity of the rootstock may kill any animal that eats it. The tops of the plant probably are poisonous in early growth, but experimental feeding has shown conclusively that neither the tops nor seeds of mature plants cause losses.

Sometimes children are poisoned by eating the water hemlock roots. In such cases an emetic should be administered promptly. Recovery usually takes place if the remedy can be applied before the poison is absorbed by the patient.

"Sweet" Sweet Clover

A "SWEET" SWEET CLOVER, FOUND BY the United States Department of Agriculture explorers in the Chihli province of China, has become a most interesting and promising forage plant. Although the new plant is a poor producer, it does not contain coumarin, a substance that imparts a bitter taste to domestic sweet clovers. In preliminary tests, department scientists were unable to cross it with domestic varieties, as its blooms are self-fertile, but by working with the plant they found a means to determine accurately the coumarin content of domestic varieties. If the cross cannot be made, there is a chance of finding a domestic sweet clover with a low coumarin content.

Bulletins in Brief

Artificial wool, produced from milk casein as a practical operation in Italy, can as well be produced from soy beans, says Dr. H. E. Barnard, research director for the Farm Chemurgic Council. The protein of soy beans is similar in composition to the casein in milk, he says.

On the second anniversary of the Resettlement Administration announcement is made by E. A. Starch, regional director at Denver, Colorado, that (1) over 26,000 farm families in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana have been given assistance through rehabilitation loans and grants; (2) 195 families were ab-

sorbed by four rural resettlement projects; (3) 1,536 farmers found solution to their credit problems; and (4) a total of 2,077,259 acres of land in rural districts of the three states are being developed and put to purposes for which they are best adapted.

Dairying is an industry larger than the steel business or automobile manufacturing, says the *Literary Digest*. American farmers produce 45,000,000,000 quarts of milk annually, of which 25 per cent is used on the farm, 30 per cent is distributed in bottles, 33 per cent is made into butter, 5 per cent into cheese, 4 per cent into evaporated, condensed, and dry milk, 2 per cent into ice cream, and 1 per cent is used for miscellaneous purposes. Milk constitutes approximately one-fourth of all the 1,500 pounds of food an average person consumes a year.

Tailless sheep have been developed by James W. Wilson, director of the South Dakota Agricultural College experiment station. For twenty-three years Wilson has been crossing the native Siberian sheep with grades and purebreds of the United States. The resultant breed, not yet available to sheepmen, is said to have more vitality than other breeds.

Manure production, says *Wallace's Farmer*, is on the average as follows: Cow, about 70 pounds daily; steer, 60 pounds; horse, 44 pounds; hog, 9 pounds; sheep, 4 pounds. Cow manure contains the largest proportion of water—77 per cent; sheep manure the least—64 per cent. Manures from horses, cows, and hogs each contain about 10 pounds of nitrogen bearing ammonia per ton; from steers, 12 to 18 pounds; sheep, 30 pounds. The amount of valuable phosphoric acid present ranges from five to eight pounds per ton, with steer and hog manure the richest. Sheep manure is richest in potash; steer manure, the poorest.

Legislation providing that all canned meats entering Wyoming shall be inspected by the Bureau of Animal Industry was enacted by the recent session of the Wyoming legislature. The law will automatically exclude foreign meats.

Consumption of all meats in the United States during March was 22 per cent larger than in February, 13 per cent above March, 1936, and 10 per cent above the 1929-33 March average, the Institute of American Meat Packers reports. Veal consumption in March of this year was 50 per cent larger than the five-year average for the month, while beef showed a 26 per cent gain, and lamb was up 6 per cent. Consumption of pork was 20 per cent larger than in March, 1936, but slightly under the five-year average.

Imports of foreign corn in the fiscal year ending June 30 will exceed 50,000,000 bushels for an all-time record, Department of Agriculture economists estimate. During the first seven months of this year, 31,218,520 bushels of corn were imported.

* * *

Constitutionality of the "windfall" tax was upheld recently by the circuit federal court of appeals at Richmond, Virginia, affirming a district court decision against the White Packing Company, Salisbury, North Carolina, which sought to enjoin the collector of internal revenue from collecting the tax. "It is not unreasonable," the court said, "that the government should impose a special tax and a heavy tax upon this abnormal profit which had its origin in government action" [the processing tax].

* * *

Wool-shearers in Wyoming will receive from 11 to 12½ cents a fleece and three meals a day for their trouble this spring in most sheep-raising sections of Wyoming, according to the official publication of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association.

* * *

Shortage of work animals for next year's planting season will be 174,382 horses and 325,541 mules, according to figures from the Horse and Mule Association. Only two states, Arizona and Nevada, are listed as having enough colts two years old and under to replace worn-out and deceased stock of the past year. All states have mule shortages.

* * *

Assessed valuation of non-irrigated and grazing lands in approximately thirty-five Montana counties was reduced on February 18 by the state board of equalization. The board was convinced that the assessed valuation of the type of lands affected has always been too high.

FOR SALE

120 Yearling Steers

P. L. Anderson Aspermont, Texas

Hardy, Recleaned Alfalfa Seed, \$11.50; Grimm Alfalfa, \$12.90; White Sweet Clover, \$7; Red Clover, \$20. All 60-lb. bushel. Track, Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

HORN WEIGHTS

In ½, 1, 1½ and 2 pound sizes; 50c a pair, f.o.b. York, Neb. York Foundry, Box ACP, York, Neb.

STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

(Continued from page 2)

drought years of 1934 and 1936 left us with many ranges seriously overgrazed but in far better shape than when fires were uncontrolled.

As a boy in a crowded eastern city, I had dreams of a land where I could win a home of my own. I am proud of a government that made possible the fulfillment of my dreams, and which had the foresight to step in and aid the ranchers and farmers through its cattle-buying and soil-conservation programs to hold their homes during the years of depreciation and distress.

We have many problems ahead of us, but under the leadership of men who are willing to help agriculture with its problems, surely our future is brighter. Halsey, Neb.

A. F. BATES.

DISTRIBUTION

TO THE PRODUCER: The subject of the distribution of meat is an old one. I remember when some of our live-stock men advocated that the packers take up the retail distribution of meat. Those men felt that the packer could furnish the product to the consumer at such a saving in the cost of distribution that it would greatly increase the consumption of meat.

There is no doubt that, other things being equal, high prices on any article greatly influence the use of such an article. If that high price came to the producer or the one who really does something to create or produce a product, all good and well, as it develops an industry. When prices come direct from an industry, natural economic laws will regulate the price and the development of the industry to the best interest of society. If prices come from some waste in distribution or from some combine, natural economic laws cannot prevail. There is no stimulant to natural industry; there is no building of basic institutions. The nation loses, everyone loses, except a few useless individuals who temporarily gain by the waste of time and effort. Society is supporting such people at great cost.

It would be far better for society to put the proprietors of some inefficient institution on relief or charity than to support them in the wasteful manner necessary to maintain an inefficient institution. True, inefficiency makes jobs, but efficiency creates the same or more wealth, and gives more leisure or more to spend in a more useful or beneficial way.

As a consumer, I have noticed the vast difference in meat prices in different shops. I have bought a steak at one place for 20 cents a pound and in another place for 40 cents, and, as far as

I could see, one was as good as another.

I understand there could be a difference in wholesale price of as much as 5 cents, but who in the world gets the extra 15 cents? Surely not the stockman, not the basic industry.

Who suffers but the producer of meat? Such prices surely curtail the consumption of meat. This is a direct blow at the live-stock industry. The great chain store system could certainly narrow this spread between producer and consumer, and could do so more economically than for the packers to go into the retail business. Maybe they are doing so. I have not investigated far enough to know, but if they did or are doing so I look for a great howl from those who profit by the high cost of living. There is many a poor fellow who needs a good piece of meat.

Co-operative selling agencies have met with much success. They can cut out some middleman expense and they can help the producer in many ways, provided they are managed by some competent, live individual. Other bulk articles used by the stockman can often be combined with the selling agency and cause quite a saving in the way of co-operative buying. Such institutions are usually encouraged by the business community.

JOHN GRATTAN.

Denver, Colo.

ARIZONA CONDITIONS GOOD

TO THE PRODUCER: Conditions are very good in Arizona, with the exception of southern Cochise County, which the weatherman has apparently crossed off his slate. Feed is very good in the foothill country. It was fair but short in the desert sections, where it is now drying. However, cattle to sell from there this spring will weigh well. The higher country, if it ever warms up, should be in fine shape. If Arizona gets a normal summer season, we will have nothing to complain about.

Phoenix, Ariz. MRS. J. M. KEITH.
Secretary, Ariz. Cattle Growers' Ass'n.

COMPLIMENTS

"It is with pleasure that I read your stockman's magazine."—DR. GEORGE F. MOTTELER, Idaho.

* * *

"THE PRODUCER certainly is a great stock paper."—ERNIE THOMPSON, Ontario, Canada.

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"I like THE PRODUCER very much. It rolls the stockman's interest into one sound bundle."—JOE CHRISTENSON, Minnesota.

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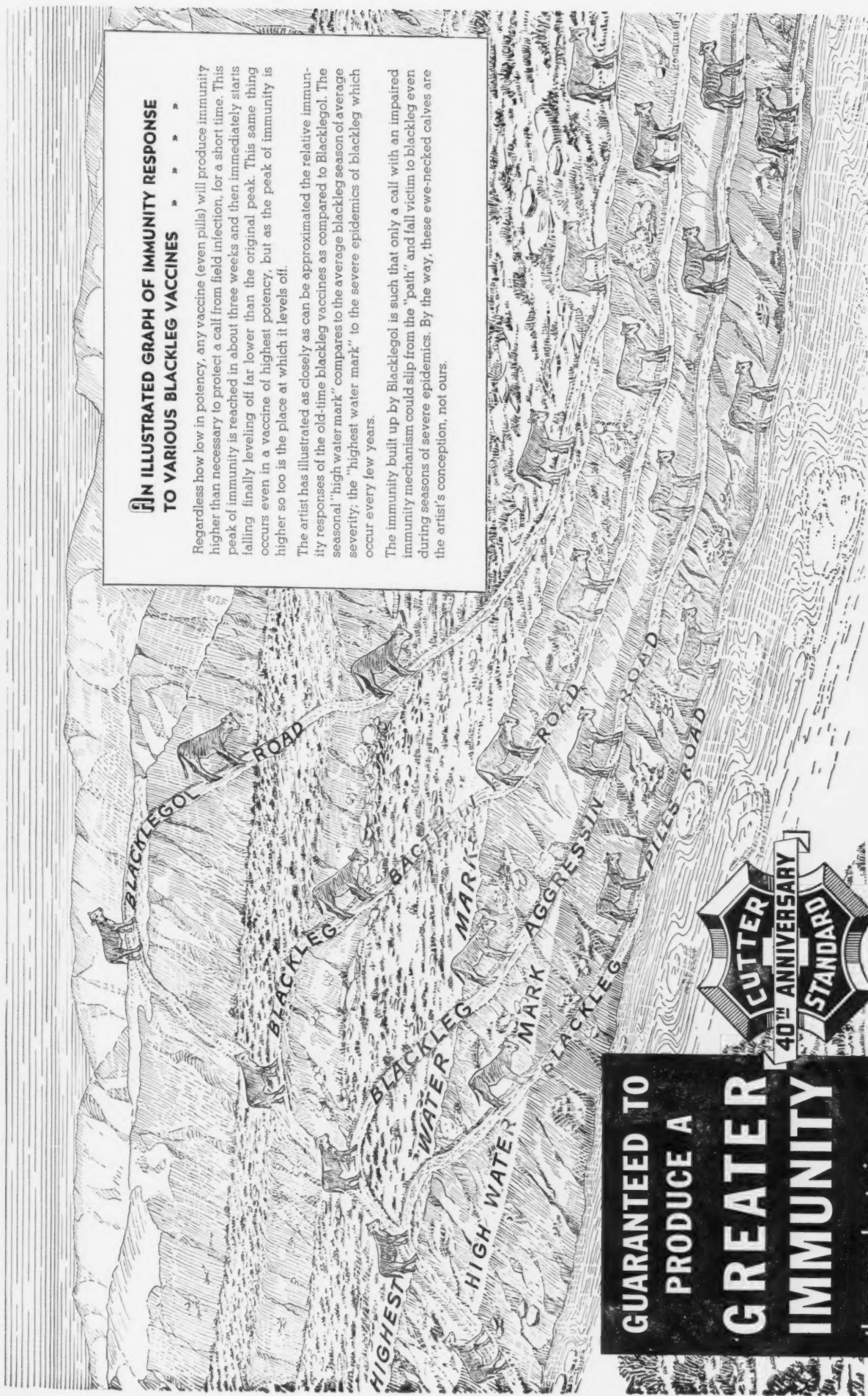
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AN ILLUSTRATED GRAPH OF IMMUNITY RESPONSE TO VARIOUS BLACKLEG VACCINES

Regardless how low in potency, any vaccine (even pills) will produce immunity higher than necessary to protect a calf from field infection, for a short time. This peak of immunity is reached in about three weeks and then immediately starts falling finally leveling off far lower than the original peak. This same thing occurs even in a vaccine of highest potency, but as the peak of immunity is higher so too is the place at which it levels off.

The artist has illustrated as closely as can be approximated the relative immunity responses of the old-time blackleg vaccines as compared to Blacklegol. The seasonal "high water mark" compares to the average blackleg season of average severity; the "highest water mark" to the severe epidemics of blackleg which occur every few years.

The immunity built up by Blacklegol is such that only a calf with an impaired immunity mechanism could slip from the "path" and fall victim to blackleg even during seasons of severe epidemics. By the way, these ewe-necked calves are the artist's conception, not ours.

**GUARANTEED TO
PRODUCE A
GREATER
IMMUNITY**
than any bacterin or ag-
gressin ever developed



BLACKLEGOL

**CUTTER LABORATORIES
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA**

SHIP
YOUR STOCK
TO
CHICAGO
THE
LIVE STOCK MARKET
OF THE WORLD

